No. 66,026

TUESDAY OCTOBER 21 1997

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DUCHESS

Get back in the fold by staying quiet PAGE 19



ry motor racing flying, climbing, caving, rafting and many more_

TOKEN 2 PAGE 37





PRE-MATCH

The sensitive side of Peter Schmeichel

PAGE 48

Shares survive 'Brown Monday'

Blair pledges he will not harm EMU

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

Do they want coffee or will it be straight

carranged visit to the Stock

backle under the strain with

public what government offici-als have briefed most news

ters, last night that the pain

had not been worse. As expect-

ed the pound rose three plennings to DM2.8881

markets have now been pre-

pared for the formal an-

currency soon after MPs re-

week. But analysts criticised

of confidence in the Govern-

ment after the mixed signals of

recent weeks - a report three

weeks ago that the Govern-

ment was likely to adopt the

euro sooner rather than later

had sent shares up and the

The episode gave the Con-

servatives, another opportuni-

Mr Brown and spoke of a loss

Ministers hope that the

nge to hunch its new c trading system —

21 10 COM

TONY BLAIR promised Helmut Kohl yesterday that Britain would not sabotage or undermine a European single currency, even though it will stick with the pound for at least the next few years.

The Prime Minister told the German Chancellor during five hours of talks at Chemers that Britain would not be mentering the single currency on January I, 1999. And he is understood to have explained the reasoning behind the ex-pected Commons announcement that participation in economic and manetary union cannot be contemplated during the present Parliament.

But he sought to reinforce the Government's European credentials by promising to use Britain's six-month presi-

As shares fell at the prospect. of Britain staying out of BMU another strong hint that Bestain would not adopt the euro. senior Treasury officials conan interview published in The

The Chancellor was again accused of mishandling the disclosure of the Covern-ment's intentions — both by opposition MPs and in the City — but he appeared to be. riding out the storm. Although the day began with a substantial fall in share poices.

Brown Monday as the traders called it, never thin account to be a repeat of Black Monday exactly ten years ago, when the manke crashed. There was a single recovery during the day and the FT-SIS 100 index closed some 60

points down.

Mr Brown had supplied at first hand as the sparker dipped. He was scaling a

of the Government's so-called worries in Labour circles, too that a machine that had worked so well in opposition had hit trouble.

A call by Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, for the resignation of the Chancellor's ress secretary Charlie Whe attack, saying that Mr Brown had mishandled EMU with serious implications for the state of the financial markets and the wellbeing of people's savings and investments.

Mr Lilley again demanded that the Commons should be recalled so that Mr Brown could make a statement. Alternatively there could be a statement in the Lords, which is meeting this week, he said "For the pro-EMU Liberal Democrats, Treasury spokes-man Malcolm Bruce accessed the Chancellor of causing a "muddled Monday" by refus

Attacking the use of spin-doctors, he said: "The Treasury cannot go on making and communicating policy in this way - the Chancellor should get a grip on his spin-doctors and make important policy announcements to Parliament in the usual way rather than through selective

briefings to the press." ined opposition politicians in condemning the way policy was emerging via briefings Simon Briscoe, the head of research at Nikko Europe, said: "It's a sad state of affairs Continued on page 2, col 4

Anatole Kaletsky and John Monks, page 20 Leading article and Letters, page 21



EU treaty blamed for Gypsy influx

AND ADRIAN LEE

EMBKGENCY me were being prepared by the Government and Kent county council last night to cope with the flood of Czech and Slovak Gypsies seeking political asylum in Britain.

As authorities in Slovakia prepared to make television and radio appeals urging people not to travel to Britain, ministers were considering sending extra immigration of ficers to Dover to help to process asylum applications.

In Kent, a disused nursing home with room for up to 100 people has been opened and the county council has also been offered the use of a disused army barracks.

The Government is facing the refugee crisis after the introduction of an EU Convention last month that has undermined its ability to remove asylum seekers speedily

EU state on back on the grounds that the application should have been lodged in the "first safe country".

But under the Dublin Convention on immigration, non-EU refugee seekers travelling without visas can apply for asylum not at the first safe country, but in the state in which they wish to live. Immigration officials of that state then process the applications.

A further 26 European Gypsies arrived at Dover yesterday as Kent county council appealed for government help to meet the Elmillion-E2million bill to provide emergency accommodation and education for the 800 asylum seekers

in the Channel port The eight families arrived aboard a coach yesterday, but seven people were sent back and the rest were put in

object, probably a hammer.

Mr Russell left his job as an

ademic in Kent to take his

He has spoken about how

his own despair was relieved by the brightness and courage

of his daughter, but he was

mable to cast off his great fear

Josie was still alive and need-

after has given me cause for

ble murder prompted a mas-

sive public appeal for information and the police

were contacted by more than a

for her personal safety. He said: When I realised

daughter back to Welsh hills

her young life.

carrying on.

thousand people.



A Czech video portrays a welcome in Britain

temporarary accommodation at Millmead Nursing home in Margate. The Ministry of Defence has offered a disused barracks at Deal. Yesterday's influx was in

addition to the 46 Slovaks and 125 Czechs who arrived between 17 October and 19 October. A total of 125 claimed asylum, but 38 abandoned their applications. Seventy four were returned to Calais

According to a Kent council official, a further 2,000 Gypsy asylum seekers are heading

A council source said: "We

several hi way. The French and Germans don't want to know, and although officially we are cooperating, the reality is that they are just ushering them

The local authority estimated that the final bill would reach £2 million at a time when it was being forced to make swingeing budget cuts of £27 million.

Feelings were yesterday running high in Dover, where the opening of the Channel tunnel has hit the local ferry

Slovaks has inflamed the situimmigrant I can live better than working at home." Mike O'Brien, the Immigra-

tion Minister, met Gwyn Prosser, the Labour MP for Dover, and will see county officials later this week.

The Gypsies arrived after two television programmes in the Czech Republic reported that British benefits and the manipulate.

> Parents protest, page 10 Pogrom fears, page 11 Leading Article, page 21

EY ON YOUR

Microsoft threat

Janet Reno, the US Attorne General, has accuse Mircrosoft of being an unline ful monopoly and threatened to fine it \$1million a day over a. row over lateract browsers, a

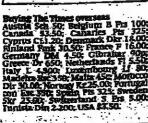
Cheating row

A primary school descended into chaos after classes argued over exam cheating, an indus-trial tribunal heard....... Page 4

TV & RADIO SO. ST.

CHESS & BRIDGE 45 COURT & SOCIAL_22

BODY AND MIND_18





Man charged with Russell murders

DETECTIVES investigating the deaths of Lin Russell and her daughter Megan yesterday charged a man they have held for three months on unrelated robbery and bur-glary charges with the two

Michael John Stone, 37, of Gillingham, Kent, is charged with murdering Mrs Russell and her six-year old daughter, and with the attempted murder of losse Russell, now ten, who has beade a remarkable recovery since being left for dead in the woods near a farm track in Chillenden, Kent, in

Mr Stone, unemployed, will appear before Medway magistrates in Chatham, Kent, this

Mrs Russell, 45, her daughters and the family dog Lucy were attacked as they walked the two-mile cross country route from their village school



after a swimming gala__-Josie was the sole survivor and underwent extensive sur-



Lin Russell, left, and Megan: killed during walk home

and told Mr Russell so.

gery to her bastered skull. She was left brain damaged and the speech skills of a two year old, but has made a rapid recovery with the help of pyschologists, speech theraoists, teachers and her father

When police found the bloody scene in the woods they believed all had been killed

But despite her massive. head injuries, Josie continued to recover in intensive care in King's College Hospital,

Just over a year after her ordeal she was able to describe to police the horrific details of

Smear test blunders when she, her mother and identified sister were bound and gagged before being battered with an

RADICAL changes have been ordered into the way cervical smear tests are conducted after a report detailed serious where she had spent most of failings in the way the service operated at one hospital.

The independent inquiry. which was published yester-day, followed the deaths from cervical cancer of five women who had all been given the all-clear by the Kent and Canterbury Hospital. Dozens more have needed hysterectomies or radiation treatment.

ed help; my whole way of looking at life changed. She is Regional health boards are a normal strong-minded little to be put in overall charge of girl. The person I am looking the tests instead of laboratories competing to carry them out to earn money. Investigation into the dou-

The inquiry found bad management, understaffing and a breakdown in relationships between staff.

Path to reform, page 6

Japanese 'entitled to three times pay of Britons'

BY FRANCES GIBB

A CITY company was cratitled to pay British staff a third of what it paid lapanese workers for doing the same job, a tribunal roled yesterday.

And while three British executives out the Quick Corporation had been dismissed because of their race, it did not follow that they had been denied promotion for the same reason, the loyment Appeals Tribunal held. The executives won a landmark case

industrial tribunal held that they had not suffered discrimination in being paid so much less than colleagues drafted in from Japan. Yesterday the

appeals tribunal upheld that ruling.
Cliff Wakeman, Ashok Solanki and Stewart Mitchell had all claimed unlawful discrimination because of their low pay in comparison to Japanese colleagues. Mr Solanki said that he received £39,500 while a less experienced man was paid \$20,000 when he tenk over as his job

that Japanese nationals were sometimes paid "three or four times" as much as British staff and that the policy was racially tainted. Even allowing for the additional expenses of living in a foreign country, staff from Japan received "significantly higher wages. But Judge Peter Clark said that the financial services company had been entitled to pay people seconded from abroad more than those resident here. The fact that they

hy Quick's deputy managing director, Noriaki Jakajima, "You have a strange skin colour and the shape of your head looks like a football" - had also claimed that the company had a racist promotions policy. But Judge Clark said that because all three were fired because of their race, it did not follow that they were not promoted because of their race.

The three are, however, still expected to receive six-figure damages for their unfair dismissal.



How the message was confused with the messengers

THE information flow was fairly dry yesterday. The row over the single currency left Labour's senior spin-doctors facing Monday morning in an angry and frustrated mood. One member of this battlehardened group even complained of persecution.

A senior government source allowed his irritation to boil over at a briefing, accusing the press collectively of being "in bonkersville" and certain journalists of trying to stand by stories they knew to be wrong. He referred contemptuously to the Financial Times - which on September 28 wrongly suggested that the Government would take Britain into economic and monetary union soon - as "the Bible of the City".

Philip Webster, Political Editor, analyses the events that put Labour's spin-doctors in an angry mood was obvious. The message they had hands-off attitude to the pound

intended to get across over the weekend, that Gordon Brown even if that meant parity with the dollar and the mark. would shortly be ruling out mem-The spinners have been in trouble this weekend, mostly because of bership of the single currency for the lifetime of this Parliament, had the enthusiasm with which they descended into yet another dispute "stood up" the splash story in The Times on Saturday. They eagerly. over the messengers. Government spin doctors did not suddenly come concurred, as the first editions into existence on May 1. but parts of appeared on Friday night, with our the media seemed to think so. interpretation that Mr Brown was Maybe they have forgotten how the on the verge of ruling out memberredoubtable Bernard Ingham virship before the next election. When tually spun John Biffen out of the was reported yesterday that Cabinet in the Thatcher years or Charlie Wheian, the Chancellor's how the pound fell dramatically press secretary, was doing so from horror of horrors — the Red Lion one Monday morning in 1985 after a Sunday paper was briefed that pub in Whitehall, the sense of

called for Mr Whelan to be dismissed yesterday. Predictably the word from Number 10 and the Treasury was that he was secure.

The interview happened for two key reasons. The Times had suspected for at least two weeks that the Chancellor wanted to kill the Financial Times report that Britain would enter soon after the 1999. launch date, and had sought clarification, preferably in remarks from Mr Brown. Mr Brown and Mr Blair decided it was time to say something more definitive about the future. They knew that the formal announcement would have: to be made to Parliament, which does not resume sitting until next

Tuesday. However, the FT story had refused to go away, and there was an ever-present threat of stories suggesting that the Prime Minister was at odds with his Chancellor. It was also necessary to prepare the City for the eventual

The two had a series of meetings last week. On Thursday night, they agreed that Mir Brown should send a signal in the opposite direction. It was a decision taken in secrecy. Only the Chancellor, his closest aides, Alastair Campbell, the Downing Street press secretary, Robin Cook, John Prescott, Peter Mandelson and one or two other key Number 10 aides knew, Mr Blair's objections would almost certainly have been primarily on: political grounds. Along with Mr Brown, he does not want Labour's first term in office for 18 years to be dominated by the sort of Euro-row that so damaged the Tories. Mr Brown accepts that on economic grounds, too, the case could not be made for early entry.

When it came, Mr Brown's hint was broad. Having effectively ruled out membership in 1999, the Chancellor said that thereafter he. did not want to face daily or monthly speculation. As he made plain, the decision had still to be taken formally. In fact, the discusthat mattered had already

taken place. Mr Brown repeated the line even more strongly yesterday, suggesting that what would be needed was a period of "stability without speculation."

The Times's interpretation was not challenged by the Treasury or Downing Street on Friday night, throughout the weekend or yesterday, even though the City continued to perceive conflicting signals. notably in another FT report yes terday that suggested that although Labour would not enter the single currency this Parliament in the long term it remains positive to-wards the project. When Mr Brown makes his statement to Parliament, it will be one of the most carefully worded in recent times, but it will not be an occasion for leaving too much to spin.

Field adds two more studies on the welfare state

currently being carried out by different government ministers and Whitehall departments into the future of the welfare state, it emerged

yesterday. Frank Field, the Minister for Welfare Reform, has asked Social Security officials to draw up proposals to curb the soaring costs of disability benefits. He has also demanded a review of the £600 million industrial injuries compensation scheme. These two previously unknown reviews add to the seven existing ones, which include:

□ A Green Paper for long term welfare reform, drawn up by Mr Field, to be published in the New Year. A study into how the tax and benefits system can be

integrated, carried out by Martin Taylor, the head of Barclays Bank. The report is expected next spring but some interim findings could be included in Gordon Brown's green budget next month.

Mr Field realises that there are inherent contradictions between his plans which involve moving away from means tested benefits and Mr Taylor's remit which would effectively extend means testing. He has told friends that if Mr Taylor's plans go ahead, his own are in jeopardy.

☐ A taskforce on welfare to work, headed by Sir Peter Davis, chief executive of the Prudential Corporation.

☐ A Green Paper on pension reform, carried out by John Denham, the Social Security Minister, which will flesh out details of the Government's planned second "stakeholder"

☐ Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, is poised to anMinister at the heart of classic

Whitehall battle Jill Sherman

and James

Landale report

nounce a new Royal Commission on long term health care that will look at nursing homes, residential care and home helps. It will report within a year.

☐ A Social Exclusion Unit, launched by Peter Mandelson in the Autumn but chaired by Tony Blair, will look at ways of helping areas of deep-scated poverty throughout the country

Alistair Darling. Chief Secretary to the Treasury, is carrying out his own comprehensive review of all Whitehall departments and has drive down welfare costs.

Most of the studies are working to different timetables and many have competing approaches. No one is in overall charge, with some reviews reporting to Mr Brown and others to Mr Blair.

The overhaul has been further complicated by personality clashes between Mr Field and his boss, Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, who have an uneasy relationship.

Yesterday, in an unusual Mr Field. with Downing Street's approval. published a collection of his essays and ideas calling for the "Big Bang" approach to

reform. It was another important signal that he may have won over Mr Blair to the case for a root and branch shake-

Mr Field's broad approach to welfare reform involves greater use of private insurance to replace state provision. Two ideas which he is currently pushing include compul-sory second pensions and an insurance-based scheme for elderly nursing care.

This approach has, however, placed him at the heart of a classic Whitehall battle. He was appointed by the Prime Minister to "think the unthinkable" on welfare reform, what Mr Blair calls his second most important priority. However Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is known to be concerned at the possible increased spending implications of his plans.

Mr Field's two new studies are the frontrupners for the first stages of welfare reform and legislation could be introduced next year.

First, social security officials have been asked urgently draw up detailed plans for streamlining disability benefits which now cost the Exchequer £23.5 billion, a quarter of the social security budget.
That study will look at all six disability benefits, which include allowances for disabled people who work, those who are unemployed and their

Second, Mr Field has asked officials to undertake a sepa-rate review of the £600 million industrial injuries benefit scheme. The favoured option is to replace some or all of these two types of benefit by personal insurance schemes, a plan which in this case is backed by the Treasury.



Helmut Kohl and Tony Blair had a "warm and friendly" meeting at Chequers

Continued from page I that policy on something as important as EMU is being run from hour to hour."

And warning of longer-term damage from the episode, he added: "The financial markets were historically a weak spot for Labour governments and in the first few months. Labour had shown that things had changed and they took several initiatives which were wel-comed by markets. This sort of event helps to undermine a lot of the good work that has been

EMU vow

done. The full costs of the weekend's fiasco will not be measured today."

Few details emerged of Mr Blair's meeting with Herr Kohl, which was largely in-tended to prepare for the British EU presidency which starts on January L. But with the controversy surrounding the single currency, the issue clearly figured strongly in their talks.

Downing Street said that the long meeting helped to cement "a warm personal relationship founded on mutual trust and respect". A spokes man for Herr Kohl said simply that the meeting went well "and helped to foster Anglo-German relations".

> Anatole Kaletsky and John Monks, page 20 Leading article and Letters, page 21 Business News, page 27 Stock market, page 33

NEWS IN BRIEF

Medical victims to get 'no fault' payouts

Victims of medical accidents would no longer have to pursue costly court cases but instead would be compa automatically under proposals to be considered by the Government. The idea for a "no fault" compensation scheme in the field of medical negligence is one of a raft of reforms published by the Lord Chancellor's Department officials confirmed that their annual leads and the confirmed that their annual leads are the confirmed to the confirmed t

that they would look further at the idea, which has been floated by Sir Peter Middleton, the former Treasury permanent secretary. Another idea is a review of the fundamental rule in English litigation in which the loser pays the costs of the winner. Sir Peter urges a review of tribunals and their procedures and proposes introducing "entry" fees. A fourth recommendation is that restrictions applying to legal expenses insurance be reviewed.

Train drivers 'drowsy'

The Health and Safety Executive is investigating reports that train drivers at Connex South Eastern, which operates services in Kent, are sometimes overworked and in danger of falling asieep at the controls. More than 600 drivers are working under a new agreement that requires frequent 10-hour shifts and some have complained of feeling drowsy. Connex says that the drivers' working arrangements were approved by the safety executive this summer. te (22) 6

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Girl, 12, sues mother

A 12-year-old girl yesterday took her mother to the fligh Court in an attempt to prevent her taking her from Britain to live with her in Denmark. The girl, who cannot be named, had run away from Denmark last year to stay with her father in Reading. Lady Justice Butler Sloss invited the two. who had not seen each other for a year, to "have a cup of tea and a bun" in a bid to stop the legal battle. The girl has been ordered to remain with her father until judgment is given.

Unionists snub BBC

The Ulster Unionist Party rejected an invitation to join Sinn Rein on Question Time this Thursday and challenged the BBC to cancel the programme. The Democratic Unionist Party also refused to join Gerry Adams or Martin McGuinness for Sinn Fein's maugural appearance. Government sources said there was virtually no chance of a minister being on the panel if the Unionists refused to take part in the current affairs programme.

Duchess deplores leak

spokeswoman for the Duchess of York described as "deplorable" the leaking of private letters which were apparently sent by her to members of the Royal Family after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. The comments came after newspaper reports claimed that the duchess had written to the Queen begging forgiveness as part of an attempted reconciliation with the Duke of York. The couple

More cows face BSE cull

More cattle will have to be culled to speed the eradication of mad cow disease after the discovery that some potentially infected animals may have been missed. The Government has proposed to Brussels that the cull should be widened to include cattle which were reared alongside, and shared the same feed as, animals that have since died of bovine spongiform encephalopathy. As things stand, the cull covers only animals that were born in the same herd.

Nana and Dana show

Nana will battle it out with Dana as the race to become the next Irish president turns into a singing contest next week Nana Mouskouri, the Greek singer and MRP, is coming to Ireland to support her fellow Strasbourg parliamentarian Mary Banotti. Ms Banotti, the Fine Gael candidate, is currently second favourite behind Mary McAleese the Fianus Fall candidate Ms Mouskouri, 63, yesterday described Ms Banotti as "a very good friend".

Psychologist points finger at a man out of control



CONFUSION over the Chancellor's position on the single currency appears to be causing him a great deal of anxiety, an expert on stress claimed yesterday.

Gordon Brown's badly bitten finger nails, featured on the cover of The Economist in July and unimproved at their latest outing at the stock exchange yesterday, supposedly show a man "out

Cary Cooper, Professor of Psychology at the University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology, said that confusion over the single currency was clearly causing him a great deal of anxiety. "It seems he is stuck in the middle of an awful mess and is trying to

balance an enormous number of factors at once. Chewing nails is very common for people like him who feel stressed and out of control."

Professor Cooper, who specialises in occupational stress, is questioning 100 new MPs on the pressures they have been under since winning their seats in May. He has not revealed how many more nail biters he has uncovered, but Gordon Brown is in good company. Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar

are supposed to have shared his habit. not to mention Norma Major, John Birt, lan Botham and the late Diana, Princess of Wales. Napoleon is even claimed to have died of ingesting the bits of nail he chewed off, though other medical opin-ion suggests that this was a symptom of than a cause. Mrs Major confessed to biting her nails until the age of 16 in an interview with Harpers & Queen in 1991. Thereafter it was noted that she hid her

hands when wearing an evening dress.

Ian Botham displayed his badly bitten
thumbnails in the High Court in 1996 as evidence that his foreshortened nails would be incapable of picking at the seam of a cricket ball, even if he wanted

The late Diana, Princess of Wales, while Lady Diana Spencer, hid her nails in elenched fists in her engagement photographs. Later, in 1991, she told a youngster in a hostel for the homeless in Vauxhall. South London, that she still bit her nails when she was nervous.

Signs of stress: the Chancellor's bitten fingernails BEST

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Secretary Real

Rector boasted of bedding two Women at once'

Special church court told of 'scandalous behaviour'

by jealous clergyman, reports Russell Jenkins

A MUSIC teacher yesterday accused a priest of pursuing her for sex in an affair which began when she was vulnerable and alone after the death of

lris Green, 56, sobbed as told a rare sitting of the church court in Wales how her love for the Reverend Clifford Wil-liams, Rector of Benliech, on the island of Anglesey, turned from adoration to fear as she sought to escape his obsession

She claimed she was only one of a number of women in the small, close-knit, seaside parish that the 49-year-old father of three had seduced. and that he had even boasted about bedding two women at the same time. He would leave copious telephone messages and scrawled notes, in one urging her to "keep Thursday bonk free for me".

Later she said that he grew obsessively jealous, began spying and stalking her, breaking into her house to copy intimate letters and diaries. He followed her across the country twice to rain her attempts to break away and once told her over the telephone he wanted to take her on a drive so he could stop in a

lay-by and strangle her.

Mrs Green was giving evidence at a Provincial Court of the Church in Wales. The eccesiastical court, the equivalent of the Church of England's Consistory Court, last sat in public in 1938. The charges laid by the Bishop of Bangor, the Right Reverend Barry Morgan, that Mr Wil-liams acted in a way that gave just cause for scandal or offence have never been heard by the court since its inception in 1920.

If he is found guilty, the way is clear for the bishop to sack

him.

Mr Williams, who presided over the parish of Llanfair Mathafarm Eithal with Lanbedrgoch, faces four charges of scandalous behaviour. It is alleged that between



Clifford Williams: scandal charges

6 I knew it could not be the first time because everybody who commits

adultery agonises and he didn't 9

May 1990 and September 1996 he committed adultery with Mrs Green in four locations including her home in Tyn-y-Gongl. Anglesey, and a friend's home in Bangor.

He is also accused of engag-

ing in "close relations of improper familiarity" with another married parishioner, Anne Williams, and that he spent excessive hours at her home in Marian-glas. It al-leges he engaged in "physical contact" with her on a church trip to the Holy Land in that he put his arm around her and lay on top of her on a bed".

The other charges, not con-tested by Mr Williams, allege that the rector lied to his bishop over the nature of photographs of the priest and one of his alleged lovers and that he disobeyed the bishop's order to stop conducting

church services at St Andrew's Church, in Benllech, In his opening address, Martin Thomas, QC, for the bishop, said the main charges relate to the dergyman's pass-

ionate affair with Mrs Green. "Adultery by a married man living with a wife is always an act of betrayal against her and her children but adultery by a priest cheats the church and those values the church has called for throughout its history," he said.
"It is compounded when the

person seduced is a parishioner who is vulnerable and trusting as Iris Green was in Mrs Green gave her evi-

She told how, in 1990, she met Mr Williams shortly after she moved to Tyn-y-Gongl, in Gwynedd, when he asked her to help with the church music. At the time she was mourning the death of her son. As the clergyman's visits increased in frequency, she said: "I told him everything. Sexual things

were talked about. "One day sitting talking on the sofa, he said, "Do you want me to make love to you? I could not believe it was happening because of what he was. My words I remember clearly were, You can't, you are a vicar. You are married'.

"Tie said words to the effect

that he was also a man. We did make love. I knew almost immediately it could not be the first time because everybody who commits adultery agonises and he didn't. It was just so easy for him. "Once that had happened,

he did it to me once a day, sometimes more than once a day. I loved him. I didn't like committing adultery but I was in the depths and he rescued me. He built my life again. I really felt reborn." Later, in tears, Mrs Green

recalled how he stopped coming to her home so often when the novelty wore off. She said she became aware from gossip in the village and another woman's confession that she was not the priest's

only lover.

She complained binerly mat his car was parked outside the bone of Anne Williams.

grabbed by his attacker who led him to a riverbank.

Mrs Oldham said: "He told him, If you say anything I'll kill you' and the victim was terrified. The victim, she said,

had every reason to believe his tormentor as he had been

bullied by him on several

After carrying out the rape,

interviewed later that day by police, the accused had denied

the offence or knowing his

victim. Later, he had admitted using threats of violence while stealing the pencil case but

had denied any sexual attack

English law requires that in cases involving children aged 10 to 14, the prosecution must prove the child knew the

offence to be wrong. The trial

Hanratty: hanged for

the A6 murder of 1961

took place.

previous occasions.



another perishioner, that he almost lived there. She confessed that she had been because she had given her life "wholly into his hands". By then, she claims, she was divorcing her husband on his advice.

On other occasions, it was Mr Williams who behaved like a jealous and obsessive

he walked in on her at her constant thrall; how much I bome when she was with another man and stormed out. "He was unbelievably vindictive and hurtful," she said. Twice Mrs Green let her

home on short leases and left the county, first to Oswestry and then to Busbury, near Hereford, but Mr Williams tracked her down. Both times, she said they resumed their sexual relationship. "I was in

loved him and believed in him and the rest of the time seeing him with all those other In 1993, Mr Williams's wife,

Gwenda, showed her photocopies of intimate entries in Mrs Green's diaries. Mr Williams must have stolen the originals and copied

them, Mrs Green said.

The hearing continues.

The order was for a buffet

daughter of his neice Fay. that night. However when Mr Moon dropped off the parcels at his neice's home on Saturday morning she told him news reports were warning people not to eat Mr Barr's cooked meat.

but on returning home on Sunday he discovered three phone messages from Mr Barr made between 6.30 and 7pm the previous night. He phoned back but could get no reply and eventually found Mr Barr at his shop. Mr Moon said that

meat 'despite E.coli warning'

Butcher sold

A BUTCHER supplied ooked meat for an 18th birthday party the day after being warned to stop selling cold meat products because they could pose a danger to health, a court heard yesterday.

John Barr, 52, of Overtown, Lanarkshire, denies "culpably, wilfully and recklessly" supplying cooked meat feared to be contaminated with the lifethreatening bacterium

Hamilton Sheriff Court heard that on Friday, Nov-ember 22, officers of North Lanarkshire Council and Lanarkshire Health Board visited his shop in Caledonian Road, Wishaw, and told Mr Barr to stop selling cooked meat products after a food poisoning outbreak in the area had been linked to

But the next day Mr Barr is said to have sold a £40 order for a birthday cake and three carrier bags con-taining 300 slices of cooked ham, roast beef and cooked turkey, to David Moon, 66, of Wishaw, a customer of ten

for 70 people attending the 18th birthday party of Lauren MacFarlane, the

"My response was that if there was any doubt about it, I would phone John." Mr Moon said he spoke to a person in the shop, whom be believed was Mr Barr, who assured him the contamination only affected corned beef and chopped ham and pork. Reassured, Mr Moon

went away for the weekend,

Mr Barr was distressed and told him that "if at all possible" he should cancel the party. "But by that time it was too late, the party had already taken place."

Later a number of party goers, including Miss MacParlane, became ill with E. coli poisoning. Under cross examination

by George Moore, for Mr Barr, Mr Moon said he had placed the original order with an employee, because Mr Barr had been on holiday. However a few days before the party he went back to the shop and spoke to both Mr Barr, who was back at work, and the employee about the birthday cake. because he had given the



John Barr arrives

wrong spelling of Lauren. He said he did not know if Mr Barr knew that the order picked up the goods from the shop, Mr Barr carried the cake to his car but instructed a boy to bring the bags containing the meat. He also said that although he thought he hadspoken to Mr Barr when he rang him to check that the meat was safe, he could not be definite.

He said Mr Barr frequently supplied cut price goods to Brigade and had catered for his ruby wedding anniversary three weeks earlier. The family were so impressed with that buffet that they had asked him to order the meat for Miss MacFarlane's birthday.

The case continues.

student falls to his death

BY KATERYN KNIGET

A CAMBRIDGE undergraduate fell 40ft to his death from the roof of an accommodation block only two weeks after

beginning his studies at Queens College.

Jack Davies an 18 year old modern languages student, was found dead by a night porter during his patrol of the grounds in the early hours of Sunday. The roof of the fourstorey building was surrounded by railings and was used by students as a meeting place. Police are trying to establish whether the fall was an accident or whether he took his

own iffe. Mr Davies, from Uekfield. Sussex, had studied at Uckfield Community College, where he gained II A grade GCSEs and three A grade A

the piano and flute.
Yesterday Dr. Robin Walker, junior bursar at Queens,
said that Mr. Davies appeared to have settled in well. Therewere no indications that any

Cambridge Ten-year-old boy Injuries to 'raped boy of 12'

A BOY aged ten raped an he had bought sweets, he was older boy he had previously grabbed by his attacker who bullied at school and then stole

his pencil case, a court was told yesterday.

The boy, now aged 11, cannot be identified. He is believed to be the youngest person in Britain to be charged with male rape. His

alleged victim was 12.
For much of the proceedings at Nottingham Crown Court, the boy, who was flanked by a male security guard and a female social worker, yawned and stretched his arms. He denies rape on October 7 last year and an alternative charge of indecent assault, as well as the theft of the pencil case and

a mathematicss set. Frances Oldham, CQ, for the prosecution, said both boys had been pupils at the same primary school but at the time of the alleged attack the victim had moved to a comprehensive school.

The victim, she said, was a slightly built, intelligent boy while the defendant was well built for his age and was bigger and stronger than his victim. She said that after the victim had left a shop where

injuries with which nine-"weeks old".

she said, the victim began to The doctor, a leading neuropathologist, was in his second day of evidence as the cry before his attacker attempted to assault him again. When passers by approached, the accused had stuffed leaves into his victim's mouth to prevent him calling out.
The sobbing victim had run home and told his mother what had happned. When

Coakley, the prosecuting at-

au pair trial baby 'were weeks old'

A MEDICAL expert told the Louise Woodward murder trial yesterday that none of the injuries suffered by the baby she was looking after could have been caused by a violent shaking. Dr Jan Leestma also insisted that skull and brain month-old Matthew Eappen was admitted to hospital were

trial entered its third week in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Woodward, 19, of Elton, near Chester, denies first degree murder. Questioned by Martha

torney, the doctor said he was sure there had been no major injury to the baby's head on Rebruary 4 — the day Miss Woodward is alleged to have killed him by shaking him and slamming his head against a hard surface. Dr Leestma said it was a "reasonable working diagnosis" for it to be assumed the baby was a victim of child abuse. The trial continues.

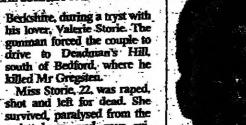
New facts uncovered on Hanratty

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW information has been uncovered in the case of his lover, Valerie Storie. The James Hanratty, hanged 35 gumman forced the couple to years ago for the A6 murder and whose family are seeking to clear his name.

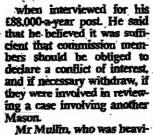
Sir Frederick Crawford, chairman of the Criminal Cases Review Commission, which investigates alleged miscarriages of justice, said that it had "dredged up" important details. He told the Home Affairs Committee of MPs that the commission. expects to say within the next few months whether the case shoold be referred to the Court of Appeal

Hatpatty was convicted of murdering Michael Gregsten, 36, whin was shot dead on August 22, 1961, after being disturbed in a confiled near the Thomes at Dorney Reach.



shot and left for dead. She survived, paralysed from the waist down and gave evidence against Hanratty. Campaigners claim that her evidence based largely on her memory of the tone of voice used by the killer before he shot her, would not now be accepted by a court.

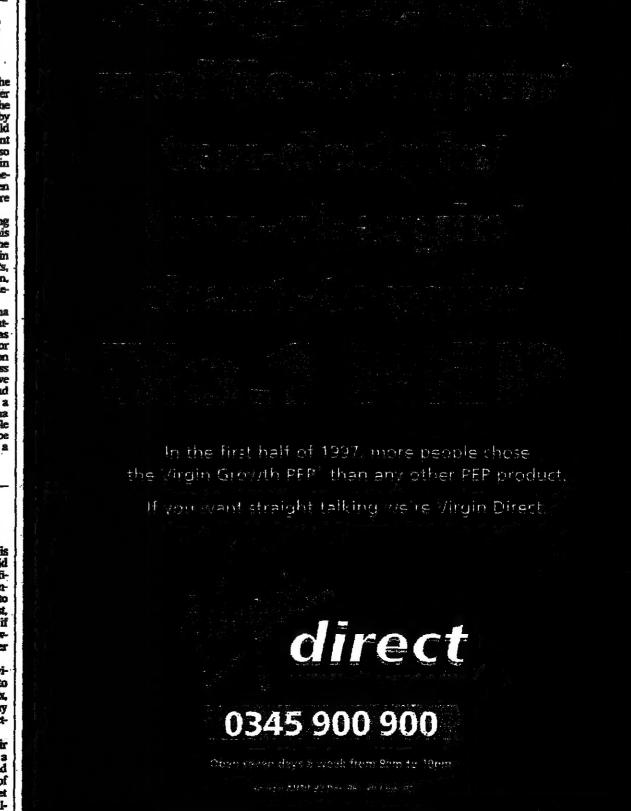
been "dredging up a lot of information not found previ-Sir Frederick told the MPs that since the commission started working on cases in ously. During questioning by MPs, uner the chairman-ship of Chris Mullin, Labour March, it had been making a "very intensive effort" on the MP for Sunderland, Sir Fred-Hanratty case. As well as erick agreed that he had not studying two filing cabinets of declared he was a Mason evidence, case workers had



ly involved in the campaign to dear the Birmingham Six, said that there had been many Mason involved in "obstructing the truth" in that case.

When he had learnt that Sir Frederick, who was a Birmingham Mason, had been appointed chairman of the commission, it had "set alarm bells ringing", al-though he stressed he was not

questioning his integrity. Sir Frederick said: "There is a lot of unjustified paranoia



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them can go down as well as up. You may not get back the amount you invest. The basis of tax may change. The value of tax benefits depends on how much tax you pay. For your security, all calls will be recorded and randomly monitored. The July 1997 budget confirmed that the tax free status of PEPs will continue until April 1999, after which it will be subject to statutory change.



Teacher's cheat gibe caused chaos in class

A PRIMARY school descended into chaos after one group of Il-year-olds set upon a rival class over claims of cheating in government tests of the children's reading abili-ty, an industrial tribunal was

told yesterday.

The breakdown of classroom discipline at Heber Road Primary School in Dulwich, South London, came after Vicky Sawyerr, a teach-er, alleged that her colleague Stella Arinze had shown pupils an advance copy of the test paper. Children from the classes started calling each other names and fighting, the tribunal in Croydon, South London, was told.

Miss Sawyerr, from Lewi-sham in southeast London, is claiming unfair dismissal and race discrimination against Southwark Council. Annetta Padmore,

school's head teacher, told the hearing that the disruption by pupils in the two classes had "ballooned" when Miss

Order collapsed when pupils heard

Mrs Padmore, who was

giving evidence on the fifth day of the hearing, denied claims that she had conspired

with school governors and education chiefs to get rid of Miss Sawyerr. The head teacher said finat she had experienced continuous prob-

lerns with Miss Sawyerr ever

since she took over the leader-

ship of the school in Septem-

At the first meeting between the two women, she said that

Miss Sawyerr had introduced

allegations, reports David Charter against Mrs Arinze and Mrs about cheating involving the

The derailment of Heber esculated," Mrs Padmore said. The children in Miss Sawyerr's class accused Mrs Arinze's class of being cheats. caused arguments between the children and name-calling that reduced some of the

contributed to destabilisation of the school", the head teacher said. Mrs Padmore launched an no evidence that Mrs Arinze had cheated in the reading

herself, saying: "You know I am the teacher who got rid of the previous head."

The situation grew worse after Miss Sawyerr had told Sawyerr lodged grievances that she had rifled through

her colleague's classroom looking for the test papers. Under cross-examination.

Mrs Padmore denied victimising Miss Sawyerr, asking members of staff to spy on her and manufacturing evidence to discredit her. Miss Sawyerr claimed that

because she had been so angry about the complaint. "If I hadn't made an allegation I would never have been dismissed." Miss Sawyerr said. Mrs Padmore said: "I deny that I was angry. I had no objection to Miss Sawyerr stating a complaint. My concern was that by the time she came to inform me she had

investigation. I was not angry because of the cheating, I had no evidence as to whether anything untoward had happened or not at that stage. Mrs Padmore said that Mrs Arinze had been completely upset and shattered" by the allegation of cheating.

The hearing continues.

already carried out her own

Vicky Sawyerr: said tests had been shown round



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Pupils ask court to make council repair school

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

sive school launched a land-mark case against their local authority yesterday in attempt to force councillors to same tion £2 million of repairs.

Rod Salisbury: 16, and Simon Worthington, 14, made a video of delanidated conditions at Childwall community comprehensive's three sites in and potholes in the grounds. The two teenagers brought

the case with their parentgovernor fathers under the 1990 Environmental Protection Act. The outcome is being watched closely by other schools and local authorities. Rod Salisbury, a sixth-for-mer, told David Tapp, the stipendiary magistrate that

art for GCSE, but I didn't because of the condition." Barristers representing the boys say the state of disrepair

keep away from in case they fell on him. Outside, the playground was a "moon-scape" of pot holes and bro-ken paving slabs.

Ton Straker QC, defending, said: "Do you think it would



Simon Worthington, left, and Rod Salisbury

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The 'sporting' drink with 19 spoons of sugar evidence that any of these could improve athletic perfor-

DRINKS that claim to put the fizz back into exhausted athletes were yesterday branded a sham. Many were little more than expensive, sugar-laden soft drinks, the Food Commission said

The report in the pressure group's Food Magazine examined 22 drinks often sold with the promise that they will restore energy levels or rapid-ly replace fluids lost during exercise. They cost an average of £1.50 each and are promoted as diet supplements, or as

part of a training programme.

Sports drinks represent about 1.5 per cent of the total soft drinks market in Britain. Almost all were high in sugar: one service of Carbo Cooler from the Sport Beverage company contained 19 level tea-spoons of sugar. Only five of the 22 actually stated how much sugar they contained, while many listed sugar sim-ply as "carbohydrate" — technically correct, but potentially misleading as complex carbohydrates such as pasta and potatoes are nutritionally dis-

Purdey's Gold High Energy contained the most sugar, at 18 per cent, followed by Carbo Cooler (16 per cent), High Carb and Mars (13 per cent) and Nutrament (12.8 per cent). Next were Carbo Power, Hi-Energy and Ultra Fuel (all 12) and then Dumns River Nourishment Light (11.5), Red Bull Stimulation (11) and Hype Energy mfp, Lipovitan B3 and mission says is meaningless. Power Horse (all 10 per cent). No particular claims are made for the herbs. There was no

Nigel Hawkes reports on the

health boosts that may be no match for the

humble banana

tained some complex carbohydrate, it was mainly maltodextrin, a compound halfway between sugar and starch. The report says: "One product, Energy Source, claimed three servings would supply the user with more carbohydrate than 2½ large tins of spaghetti, without the bulk, giving the impression that the product contains the kind of starches found in spaghetti. We believe this could be misleading, as the carbohydrate in the product comes from maltodextrin and sugar."

Caffeine is found in eight

out of the 22 drinks, at levels up to three times higher than in traditional colas. Though this is not unhealthy, neither is it likely to do much good, the commission claims. Caffeine encourages fluid loss.

Other components include vitamins, minerals, herbs and taurine (an amino acid). Tau-rine is described by the makers of Red Bull as an "energy transmitter", a claim the com-

Olympic champion 'will beat diabetes'

By NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

STEVE REDGRAVE, four times winner of an Olympic gold medal, has been found to be suffering from diabetes. He remains determined to compete for his fifth gold at the Sydney Olympics in 2000, and other members of the crew of the men's coxless fours have given him their full support.

mance, the commission said.

Sue Dibb, for the Food Commission, said: "Sports di-

eticians do not recommend

high-energy drinks as a regu-lar part of the diet of someone

training or doing sport recreationally. For extra ener-

A spokeswoman for the British Soft Drinks Federation

said that that the commission

had caused confusion by grouping together a wide range of drinks with different

purposes. Some did contain sugar, but this was no bad thing: Breast milk contains 7

per cent sugar," she said. "The key is balance. As for cost,

consumers are not fools. If a

drink is too expensive, they won't buy it. And all contents

of soft drinks have to adhere to

gy, a banana is healthier."

Redgrave, 35, learnt of the problem shortly after he re-turned from a holiday following last month's world championships in France, where his crew won the gold. His coach, Jürgen Grobler, said: "It is the most stressful

time for him. It is his aim to carry on. That is why he was so disappointed after be found out what was going on with him. I know that in other sports, and also in rowing, there are people with the same problem. Every



Steve Redgrave in action: "Every person is different — there is a big learning process," his coach said

person is different. There is a big learning process. In discussions, we have said that his health is the priority. Nobody is putting him under

essure to carry on." Among other diabetic sportsmen are the footballers Gary Mabbutt of Tottenham Hotspur and Alan Kernaghan of Manchester City,

Brown of Derbyshire and Andy Moles of Warwickshire. The jockey Jonathan Lower has the disease, and the Jockey Club is considering whether he should contimue riding.

remain obscure, but there is

between genetic predisposi-tion and some environmental agent, possibly a virus. Athto be prone to viral infections. Redgrave has the advantage that his wife. Ann. a former international rower, is a doctor who looks after the British rowing squad.

which generally starts in childhood and requires daily injections; and non insulin-dependent diabetes, which usually arises after the age of 40. It has not been made clear suffering, though he has confirmed that he is taking

Fry angers students with drug defence

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

DUNDEE University has dissociated itself from remarks made by its Rector, the actor and writer Stephen Fry, after he defended his use of Eestasy by saying "one should try everything once." The university has a strong sinti-drugs policy and regularly conducts

for drugs. Mr Fry told Neon magazin should try everything once, except incest and country

ed with Ecstasy at a party. "I was surprised to see it lives up to the name — Ecstasy, which

Down

with

Debt!

self — 'ecstasis'." In a joint statement, the University and Students' Assocition said: "Mr Fry's opinions are not opinions which are held within the Students' Association or the University. Ecstasy is a Mr Fry was elected Rector

hree-year term. The Dunder from taking drugs, called for Mr Fry's resigna-

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Blunders lead to reform of smear testing

THE national cervical smear test programme is to be restructured after the publication yesterday of a report that details serious failings in the way the service operated at one hospital.

Instead of laboratories competing to carry out the tests, thus earning money from the programme, the eight regional health boards are to be put in overall charge of the programme in their areas, coordinating the management of the national programme. Quality control and training of laboratory staff will have to

meet national standards. The changes follow the publication yesterday of an independent inquiry into what went wrong with the service at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital from 1990 to 1995. Five women who were given the all clear died from cervical cancer and dozens more have needed hysterectomies or radiation treatment.

The report is likely to lead to a wider review of screening for Jay, the Health Minister who set up the inquiry, said it would be considered nationally alongside two reports into breast cancer services to be published shortly.

The Kent and Canterbury inquiry uncovered bad management, understaffing, poor training and a breakdown in relationships between senior consultants and laboratory staff. Matters were made worse by the introduction of Five women given the all-clear died:

333 were found to be at high risk of cancer, reports

Ian Murray

NHS, which led to secrecy and a fragmentation of the service. When internal checks at the hospital at last recognised that something was wrong, it was necessary to look again at 91.000 tests taken over the six years. The review found that 333 women had been given the all clear when they had a high level of risk of cancer; a further 1,800 women showed a medium level of abnormality. One outside laboratory re-



Sir William: critical

Kent and Canterbury managed to pick up only 41 per cent of those with high-grade abnormalities, compared with a national average of 85 to 95

This was due to a catalogue of managerial and clinical failings which resulted in unacceptable failings," said Sir William Wells, chairman of the South Thames NHS Executive, who led the inquiry panel. "There are no excuses and everybody involved was to a greater and lesser extent

There was poor and confused management of the hospital trust and cytology laboratory, warnings repeat-edly ignored, poor training, low morale, a breakdown in relationships at all levels including consultants, and an apparent lack of interest by clinicians involved."

In a covering letter to Bar-oness Jay, Sir William says he was struck by the different ways in which the introduction of the internal market meant there was an "overall lack of clear accountability for

the national programme.

"Many of the decisions which had an adverse effect on the cytology department were made (or not as the case may be) because of the perceived need to be free standing and competitive in the newly creat-

Sir William said restoring credibility to the national cervical screening programme



Helen Palmer: "I needed a hysterectomy to save my life . . . I can't understand how they can deny responsibility"

Women still waiting for apologies

BY OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

HELEN PALMER has just received a letter from the trust denying any responsibility for having failed to spot an abnormality in the two tests she had in 1989 and 1990.

When they were retested in 1995 they were found to show serious abnormalities." she said. "I needed a radical hysterectomy to save my life and I cannot understand how they can deny responsibility."

Whitstable, has two children, aged 3 and 5, who were both born while the tumour was growing. I wasn't ill, but when I look back on it I am terrified about what might have happened."

sham, is one of the 28 women for whose inaccurate test resuits the Kent and Canterbury Hospitals NHS Trust has accepted responsibility. She 1987 and 1992 and was never recalled. A review showed abnormalities in all the tests. "I can't see why my case is different from Helen's," she said. "If they were responsible for failing to spot abnorm-

alities with me, they must be responsible for her." For 20 years Jane Newport, 38, took care to have regular smear tests. In January of last year she went to her GP because she was worried that her periods had become irregwas five years since her last test and said it was time for another one. The result showed an abnormality.

Mrs Newport, who lives in Ashley with her husband and three children, had to wait until April for an appointment with a specialist at Bucklands Hospital in Dover. He told her that there had been two abnormal test resuits and she should have a colposcopy, an examination of the cervix. "He told me that one test had been carried out at Liverpool and I couldn't understand that, because I

had never been there." She had heard about problems with smear tests at Kent she was safe because she was never recalled. After her colposcopy, the specialist rec-ommended a hysterectomy.

Her GP subsequently told her that her 1990 test result had been misinterpreted by the Kent and Canterbury, and found to be abnormal after a review at Liverpool.

"The apology from my GP was the only one I ever received," Mrs Newport said. Kent and Canterbury never recalled or contacted me and their attitude is quite appalling. I learnt later that my last three tests had all shown abnormalities. If my test in 1985 had been read properly I could have easily been cured

'Mistakes must never happen here again'

BY IAN MURRAY

KENT and Canterbury Hos pital stopped cervical smear screening in May and all the work has now been moved be William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, which now carries out 55,000 tests a year.

Although levels of reporting

at Canterbury reached national targets by the end of last year, all 7,500 women whose smears were screened there between January and May are being told that the smears are to be retested. East Kent Health Authority is trying to track down the last ten of the 333 women at high risk who were wrongly cleared between 1990 and 1995. Some may have left the country and some may have died.

No one involved in the programme at Kent and Canterbury Hospital is now working in screening. Only one consultant pathologist, Ian Hesley, works for the NHS. His job at North Hampshire. Hospitals Trust in Basingstoke involves no screening.

Four primary screeners from Canterbury transferred to the William Harvey Hospi-tal. One left after a short time and the other three will do no screening unless they are retrained and pass the national Certificate in Cervical Cytology Examination.

Edward Pearson, the Canterbury hospital chief executive, and James Bird, the trust's chairman, have both resigned. Jo Hawkes, chair-man of East Kent Health Authority, said: "Our hearts go out to the women involved and their families. We have taken swift steps to ensure the

This is not over, says Cabinet minister's sister who led legal fight

BY OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

SARAH HARMAN, the solicitor who led the campaign for an inquiry into the Kent and Canterbury Hospital cervical smear programme, became involved because the was one of the women who was told in February last year that she was going to be retested.

"I rang up the helpline number and I wasn't at all happy about the way I was treated. she said the testing would start. They didn't seem to know. I got the impression they had been jumped into opening the helpline before they were ready because they knew the press was inquiring into the case."

Ms Harman, 49 - elder sister of Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary — gave a short interview to a local newspaper about her concerns. Other women began getting in touch with her, saying they had found the same

lor, because the hospital was providing nothing in the way of reassurance. They could have minimised the concern because, in the majority of these cases, women can go for a long time with a cancerous growth still be cured. All they did was try to obscure the issue, which meant that GPs surgeries were invaded by frightened, angry women demanding answers."

She said the trust issued a press notice saying that everyone would

could not find out what was going on. "Into this vaccuum walked panic and fear. I originally had six women who wanted me to represent them against the hospital - and I thought that was enormous - but, as the case attracted more publicity, more and more got in touch."

Pressure from her and her clients led to the hospital's internal inquiry, which was published in an abridged form last February. I thought that the attitude it showed was outraknew by then there were 15. If it hadn't been for the women themselves pressing on, demanding something better, nothing would have happened. When the new Government was elected, I wrote to Frank Dobson as soon as he was appointed Health Secretary."

Because of her sister, she may have been able to command attention more quickly than other solicitors. With three weeks, Baroness Jay, the Health Minister, an-

report, which means we can move forward into the future with confidence." Ms Harman said. "But that doesn't mean we should allow the trust to sweep the past under the

"I have been contacted by over 70 women or their familes so far. Some have died. Some have lost their fertility through radiotherapy or a hysterectomy. Many have suffered anxiety and trauma. The hospital has accepted responsibility for 28 of



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When information is everything.

Inquiry at diving centre after 17 die in 15 years

SAFETY inquiries which could affect the future of a national scuba diving centre have been launched after the 17th death there in 15 years. The latest fatality was the fourth involving an inexperienced diver in six months.

A police report into the death of forklift driver Claude Man, 28, who died while diving in thick fog at Stoney Fove National Inland Diving Centre near Hinckley on Sunday, will be sent to the Leicester coroner. An inspector from the Health & Safety Executive visited the centre to determine the HSE's jurisdiction in the case and spoke to police diving experts vesterday amid concern about the security of novice divers.

The centre was involved in controversy earlier this month when Patrick Scanlon, 37, from Leicester, drowned:

An inquiry by The Times into training standards found growing criticism by police inderwater experts of new ast-track preparation for livers. This involves five-day ntensive courses which allow beginners to dive unsupervised after only four sessions with instructors.

Mr Man, from Tottenham, North London, who held the Water Diving Coroner will get report on

latest death at scuba lake

reports Michael Horsnell

sional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), is believed to have drowned at the former granite quarry while under the care of a more experienced rescue diver. Police inter-viewed the rescue diver, who had raised the alarm, and staged a partial reconstruction to test whether rescue facilities

were working efficiently.

Among issues the coroner will want to establish are why diving was permitted in the 36-metre deep lake when visibility was down to only 10 metres, making it impossible for the rescue boat to be launched because of the danger to other divers and whether Mr Man dived deeper than the 18 metres which his certificate allowed.

He was unknown at the centre and would have merely

Stoney Cove diving centre: training under scrutiny

Cardin's heir keeps faith with the old master

PIERRE CARDIN'S "Evolu tion" line by Sergio Altieri, shown yesterday in his Paris art gallery theatre complex, should be a solid hit, featuring as it does high quality design and workmanship. This was not the last of the

spokeswoman for the centre,

said: "We don't know if he was

a regular visitor. We have

something like 50 dive schools

who use our facilities for

training. The fog and poor

visibility does not have any

impact on safety, and it cer-

tainly had no impact on this

"I can't put into words what

are feeling here. We are

just so concerned, so worried, so distraught. We are doing all

we can to ensure the safety of

our site and the safety of our

two other national diving cen-tres — at Gildenburgh Water.

near Peterborough, and Dosthill Quarry, at Tam-worth, Staffordshire – ques-

tioned the circumstances in

which Mr Man perished. He

had 10 diving instructor candi-

dates taking their tests before

examiners from PADI at Ston-

ey Cove on Sunday.

Because of the fog danger,
he allowed candidates to ven-

ture no further than 10 metres

from the shore. He said: There was no public an-

nouncement to warn divers

not to dive away from the

shoreline because of the very

poor visibility.
"A lot of shouting for help

was heard when the diver got

into difficulties but no one

could see anything or hear where it was coming from because the walls of the quar-

ry trap the echo. And the boat

could not go out in the

conditions because of the dan-

Mark Caney, managing di-rector of PADI said: "So-

called fast-track training for

divers is not a new thing. It is

well tested. If you look at the

fact there have now been 17

deaths at Stoney Cove it may

sound a lot but not when you

consider that there have been

millions of dives. Stoney Cove

may be a statistical anomaly.

Fifty per cent of training takes

ger to other divers."

Ian Forster, director of the

spring 1998 ready-to-wear shows, as some lesser names are still striving to be seen. But Cardin's show serves 25 2 fitting finale — true fashion served up as such, rather than spectacle or hype. In fact, Cardin was not even there during the show, arriving backstage after the runway lights dimmed. "I wanted to keep the spotlight on my spiritual heir. He's been learning from me for is years, after all, "Cardin said.

At 75, Cardin is easing into retirement, with a fortune made in couture and licences since his own house opened in 1950. His Italian-born designer, who has shown for several seasons, did a great job of mixing modernity with Cardin nostalgia.
The show climaxed in sun-

ny evening clothes. Their look of layered, hooped lampshades in grades of coral and bright green were dead ringers for the glory days of Cardin. Other famil-iar details cropped up in the handsome, upstanding stiff-ened neck ruffles, looking like flowers, or the knotted long panels on the sleeves of a short black cocktail gown with a couple of rhinestone stripes at bodice and hip. Other slinky black crepe numbers had voluptuous Joan Collins or Dolly Parton appeal as a bra feature was incorporated right into the deep-V décolletés.

Cardin daywear made a serious statement in subtle shades of beige, linden or Nile green, clay or silvery grey, for light, new fabrics. Many outlits sported the latest loose and fluid looks, here looking more Altieri than Cardin. Floaty shirtlike



neck ruffle tops green chiffon dress patterned with blue and yellow prints

jackets, or loose trapeze top-pers in hazy pastels were paired with soft but tufted offwhite wool pants cut on the bias, giving the collection upto-the-minute chic. Jumpsuits, too, were handsome, and more tailored with diago-

chief dresses and some of the boleros over check pants. standout sleeves with geomet-The distinctively structured ric shapes on bright purple look Cardin himself did so

coats also brought back the well was echoed nicely in good old days of Cardin, yet looked wearable today by an short-sleeved jackets with upturned "pagoda-sleeve" shoulder emphasis. Many elegant woman. long jackets without lapels are fastened by a single metal bar like a well-placed piece of As young talents are striv-ing for revolutionary modes

to greet the millennium, it is nice to know that the oncerevolutionary Cardin shapes Asymmetry in handker still look good and that a great creator's works never really wear out (AP)

Move to silence church bells hits sour note

By PAUL WILKINSON

COUNTRY house hotel dropped a clanger with vil-lagers when it tried to silence the bells of their parish

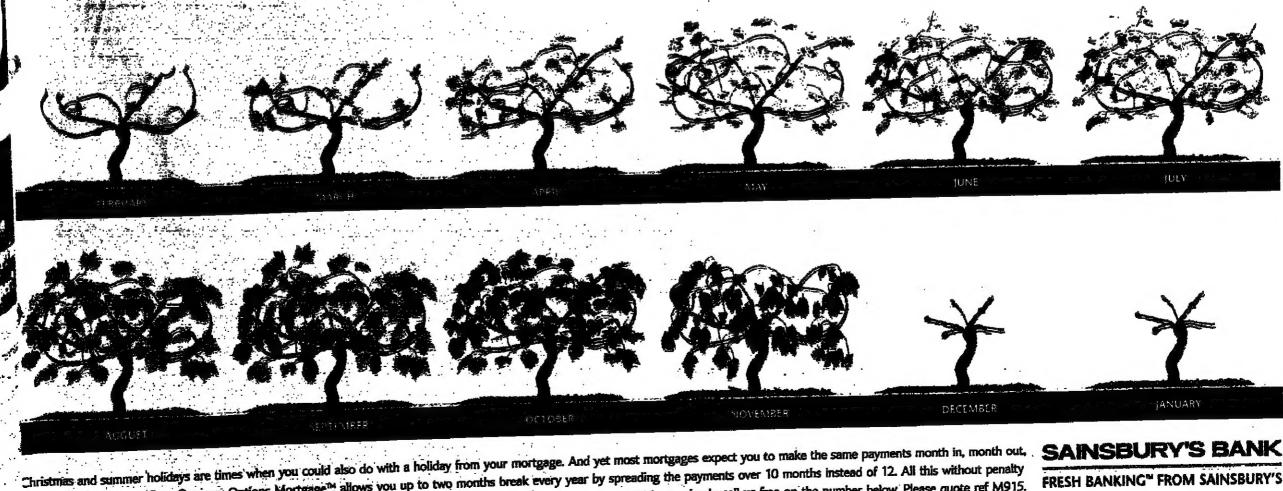
Nidd Hall hotel in North Yorkshire suggested that, so as not to disturb sleeping guests, the chimes should be suppressed between 11pm and 7am. But the owners of the former stately home reckoned without the people of Nidd, near Knaresborough, where the bells have pealed every hour since the church was built in 1865. Residents are being urged to vote against the idea in a plebiscite being organised on behalf of Warner Holidays by Lord Mountgarret, whose family once

occupied the house. Alan Clapham, the parish council chairman, said it was a "bit rich" for Warner to try to change an aspect of village life that had existed for generations. "They seem to have upset quite a lot of people, especially those living nearest the church," he said.

Warner is spending £8 million converting the hall into an adults-only playground with pool, gym, tennis courts and other leisure facilities.But the suggestion that the company pay for an electronic supressor on the clock has struck a sour note, although Lord Mountgarret, former president of Yorkshire Cricket Club and chairman of the parochial church council, is determined to stay neutral on the matter. So is Nidd's vicar, the Rev Kenneth Tibbo, who said: The hotel has a point. They have up to 360 residents not used to the bells, which could disturb them."

Joe Stenson, general manager at the hotel, said that, before it was closed for refurbishment, a number of guests had complained of being kept awake by the church clock. "I anticipate a number of customer complaints from guests in accommodation close to the

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EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

LITERACY targets for children from the poorest performing areas were relaxed yesterday, but ministers said that they would not allow poverty to excuse long-term Areas where low numbers

of 11-year-olds currently reach expected levels in English tests will have to succeed with 70 per cent of children by 2002, compared with the national target of 80 per cent. Those aiready near 80 per cent are being encouraged to aim for 90 per cent so that the national

All 131 education authorities in England and Wales were given their suggested target yesterday, to be agreed with the Department for Education and Employment and published by Christmas. Authorities must then spend the spring term agreeing goals for Individual primary schools, which will also be published.

Stephen Byers, Minister for School Standards, said the 70 per cent minimum would still require the lowest-achieving areas to make the fastest rate of improvement in the next five years. The 2002 targets were a "staging post" towards higher standards in the fol-

lowing five years.

used as a lever to force leges to take more state Labour MP for Cambridge. has urged. The colleges, which at present get £35 million a year for their own facilities and a system of individual tuition, could have grants cut if they failed

to meet recruitment targets. Leading article, page 21

tests for 11-year-olds, a little more than 50 per cent of children reached the Governfour of the national curriculum. "There will be many local authorities who will be critical of having to get to 70 per cent, for example those in the forties at the moment," Mr Byers said. "But this is not the end of the process, these are the standards for this Parliament. Each local authority will have to go beyond 70 per cent after

Mr Byers said the annual improvements expected from authorities ranged from 2.2 per cent to 5.5 per cent. However, representatives from Coventry City Council were surprised to find out that their suggested target seemed above this level, whereas in

n breaks

stylish and

tive hotels

tionwide

London borough, the annual

Dave Edwards, chairman of education in Coventry, said: Raising standards is our No I priority, but targets have to be realistic and achieveable so we will be getting into to some hard-nosed discussions with Department for Education officials as soon as possible."

The number of free school meals provided by each local authority, an indicator of poverty, would not be acceptable as an excuse for low stan-dards, Mr Byers said. Instead would be used as a guide for

"Children from poor backgrounds are not less able or less bright, but all too often there has been a lack of ambition from teachers, local authorities and government,"

Extra money for low achieving schools would come from the £50 million fund an nounced by Tony Blair at the abour Party conference for books and training for

Graham Lane, education chairman of the Local Government Association and of Newham council in East London said he was "delighted to have been given targets to aim at.

spending a fortune.



Flying south: news of the arrival of the Siberian rubythroat, below, brought hundreds of birdwatchers flocking to a tiny Dorset village



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Siberian beauty misses photo call.

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A TINY Dorset village was under seige yesterday as bird-watchers from all over Britain flocked to see a rare song bird from Siberia. More than 1,000 twitchers, armed with cameras and telescopes, descend-

Osmington Mills, near Weymouth, after word spread of the first British sighting of the male Siberian rubythroat. The hundreds who drove

through the night were, how-

ever, disappointed. The hordes whose cars were already blocking the narrow country lanes around the field where the bird was seen appeared to have scared it away. John Dunn, one of those who managed to catch sight of the robin-like bird, said: "I saw it hiding in the grass. The bird is a male with a beautiful red throat. It's absolutely

The bird. Latin name Lucinia calliope, was spotted by a local ornithologist and word spread quickly on the twitchers' grapevine. Chris Rice, landlord of the Smug-glers Inn in Osmington Mills. said: "I went out to get some papers on Sunday afternoon and it was all quiet. When I

blocked with cars. It took me 30 minutes to drive a mile and a haif. I've never seen any-

"People were arriving all through the night. One guy had come from the Shetland Islands and there were several from Scotland. Most of them seemed to be carrying

thing like it.

As dawn broke there was no sign of the bird which, according to Collins' Birds of Britain and Europe, prefers "damp valley bottoms" and is Utals. A female was seen off Scotland in 1975, but there had een no sighting of the bright-coloured male in Britain.

The exotic migrant was identified by its red throat and black-and-white striped head. The bird, which breeds in Siberia, is believed to have been flying to southern Asia

by strong winds.

The lanes around Osmington Mills were blocked by abandoned vehicles, and farmers cashed in by charging birdwatchers for parking in their fields. Every bed and breakfast within miles was full and many spent the night

Carol Martin, 34, drove from Kent as soon as she heard of the sighting. She said: "I have spent three hours waiting to catch a glimpse of the rubythroat, but have had stay put and hope that pa-tience will eventually pay off."

BENT PULL

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George of the contract of the

Sec. 3 Km.

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Karl Evans, of the National Centre for Ornithology, said: "The bird probably got blown off course, When this bappens the creature will normally continue its journey after a brief rest. However some are just too tired to go on."

Leading article, page 21

oak-beamed hideaways in picturesque rural hamlets to elegant, luxury establishments in historic cities. Each Heritage hotel has its own distinctive

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charm and character, while all share two other important features - the facilities you would expect from any modern hotel, and the high standards you would expect from Forte, one of the world's leading hotel companies. With this superb offer from Forte Heritage, you could be treating yourself reak with stylish accommodation, superb service and excellent cuisine for as little as £87 per person for 2 nights, dinner, bed and breakfast included. The offer is available at any of the Forte Heritage hotels listed, for stays up to 22 December 1997.

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Grandson died under lorry wheel

NEWS IN BRIEF

The grandfather of a sevenyear-old boy who was crushed under a wheel of his lorry had been warned by police about letting children ride on the side of the vehicle, St Pancras Coroner's Court, London, was

told yesterday. Jordan Smith was clinging to Joseph Friel's dropside lorry as it entered the car park of the family home at Camden, North London, when he lost his grip. Dr Susan Hungerford, the Coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death. Mr Friel faces a careless driving case at Clerken-well next Tuesday.

University alert

More than 500 students at Saiford University halls of residence are being immunised against meningitis. A man aged 19 and a woman of 18. from Oaklands Hall, are in hospital after falling ill at the weekend.

Motorcycle death

An off-duty policeman was killed while taking his 14year-old daughter for a motorcycle ride in Stockport near Manchester. Harold Parker, 50, and Lucy, who suffered abdominal injuries, were in a head-on crash with a car.

Alliance appeal The Pro-Life Alliance anti-

abortion group failed to per-suade the Court of Appeal to overturn an earlier decision not to allow a judicial review of the BBC's refusal to show its general election broadcast in full.

Thirst aid

A horse that fell into a swimming pool while trying to drink the water had to be rescued by firemen. Two crews who went to the farm in Aylesford, Kent, drained the pool and built a makeshift ramp with their ladders.

Steamy fiction

Mills and Boon, publishers of romantic fiction, are hoping to update their image with their first poster campaign. featuring a woman reading in the bath. The publishers are promising racier content to

Flu warning for elderly and sick

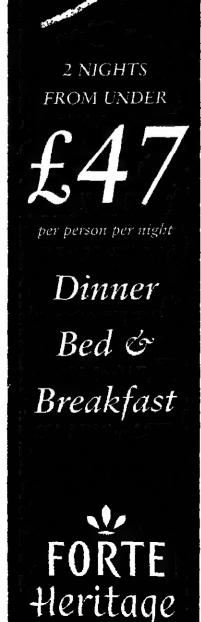
HEALTH officials yesterday urged the elderly and infirm to be vaccinated against fit before winter sets in. The call came at the start of the annual Flu Awareness Week, which aims to reduce the estimated 3,000-to-4,000 flu-related deaths in Britain every year.

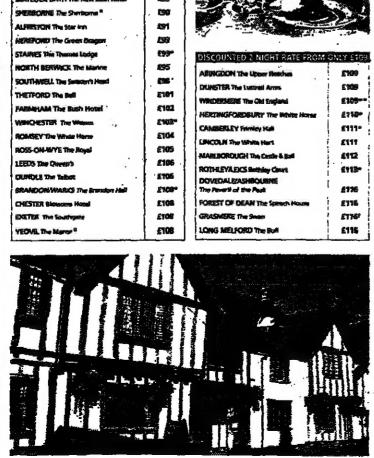
Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, announced one of the largest vaccination programmes, with 6.5 million shots ready for use. The £35 million campaign follows a severe outbreak last January and the isolation of a new strain of flu virus after the death of a fiveyear-old boy in Hong Kong

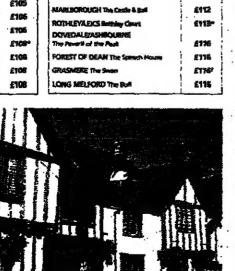
earlier this year. Government scientists yeserday dismissed talk of an epidemic as alarmist and said there was no indication that this year would be particularly

Professor John Oxford, a virology expert at Royal London Medical College, said the Hong Kong case was merely a "blip on the radar" and no cause for wider concern: "We have 120 laboratories around the world looking for new viruses and all the signals are that there is nothing out there that we don't know about for this year.

Scientists also tried to debunk myths that the vaccine was either ineffective or could itself cause flu. According to research, current vaccines provide up to 80 per cer protection against infection.









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End tyranny of cars to save countryside, say experts

COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

A NEW way of using speeding fines and a ban on cars and lorries on some minor roads were urged yesterday to prevent "the tyranny of the motor car" from destroying the

character of the countryside. The Countryside Commission wants fines and other road taxes to be paid into a fund to pay for the cost of managing traffic and enforcing speed limits more rigorously.

Government on land use, said: "It really is something of a farce that speed cameras are paid for by local authorities, enforcement is carried out by the police and the courts, and all the money goes direct to the

Speaking at a conference on rural traffic in London, Mr Simmonds said: "I believe there really is a very good case for making the system of speed control self-financing, to take

He added: "In most country roads and lanes it is no longer safe to walk, cycle, push a pram or ride a horse. The car is king of the road, and drivers assume that, if someone is in the road round the corner and an accident occurs, not only will drivers be safe in the cocoon of

their vehicles, but it will be the nonmotorist's problem for being there. In this country there is still an

Richard Simmonds, chairman of much, if not all, the workload off the speeding, and that it is quite safe to the commission, which advises the police."

Which advises the police."

Which advises the police."

Which advises the police." cruise along at 10 per cent or more above the speed limit."

In a report published yesterday. the commission said it was hoping to set up pilot schemes with local authorities for networks of "quiet roads" on town edges that would be reserved for cyclists, horse riders and walkers.

Unless we move decisively to tackle the problem of traffic growth assumption - a presumption - that within a generation, much of the

away," the report said.

It estimated that the 21 million cars now in use would have risen to 32 million by 2025, and with fewer main roads being built or old ones widened, "inevitably, a prime place for traffic to expand to satisfy unchecked demand is on to minor

This would lead to growing pollution from car noise and exhaust fumes, greater risks to pedesincreasing suburbanisation, seen in proliferating street lights, concrete kerbs and urban-style road signs and markings.

Glenda Jackson, a Transport

Minister, acknowledged that the problem of growing rural traffic had to be tackled, but said it also had to be recognised that "private had be recognised to be recognised transport is likely to remain the key to maintaining quality of life for the majority of residents" of the

Transport reforms 'depend on road pricing'

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

ONE of John Prescott's transport advisers told ministers vesterday to put more effort into "softening up" motorists for the possible introduction of

driving charges.

David Begg, appointed last month to a government working group to advise the Transport Secretary, said that ministers' failure to press home the benefits of additional charges would doom planned transport reforms to failure. He said the Government should mount a television advertising campaign. supported by leading trans-port figures such as Richard Branson, to persuade the public that radical changes are

Charging motorists for driving in congested towns and cities is one of the main reforms being considered by ministers in the run-up to a transport White Paper next spring. A charge of up to £4 per vehicle per visit, adminis-tered by an electronic tagging system, is seen by advocates of road pricing as a crucial step towards relieving congestion

and pollution. Mr Begg, Labour chairman of Edinburgh council's transport committee and a professor of transport at Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, is one of nine members of the advisory working group. He published a paper arguing for the urgent introduction of charges at the launch of a cross-party think-tank formed to explore the possibilities. The Centre for Management of Traffic and the Environment, is headed by Steven Norris, the former Tory Transport Minister.

Mr Begg argues in his paper that, in Edinburgh, £60 million a year could be raised from a £1 charge on each motorist entering a pricing ring around the city. He said that a pricing policy in Singapore had halved the number of cars at rush hour.

Duke makes last stand against right to roam

A LONG struggle between ramblers and one of Britain's peak on the windswept moorland of Lancashire's Forest of Bowland. The Government is on the brink of puveling plans for a legal right to roam over uncultivated countryside which would force the Duke of Westminster and other big landowners to open their acres to all under threat of fines or even imprisonment.

For some ramblers, the duke's Abbeystead estate 19,500 acres of heather, fells, woods and farmland east of Lancaster — has become a symbol of landowners' unwillingness to share nature's beauty. For the duke, a compulsory right to roam would be an intolerable restraint on the ability of estate owners to manage their assets.

Kate Ashbrook, chairman of the Ramblers' Association, which has 121,000 members, said: "Despite repeated requests over the years, we have been unable to persuade the duke to open up more than a small fraction of his land. This is a poor substitute for the wonderful sense of freedom that comes with not having to worry where you are putting your feet."

The Country Landowners' Association wrote to the Prime Minister earlier this month, complaining that the Government seemed already to have ruled out options such

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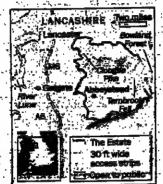
derly and s

Michael Hornsby reports on battle ground between a landowner and ramblers who want more freedom

with local ramblers' groups. The duke believes he has done everything to meet rea-sonable demands of walkers.

Rod Banks, his estate manager, said: "Access, to be acceptable, has to be managed. An automatic right to roam would remove the vital element of control."

The duke bought Abbey-stead in 1980, after the death of its previous owner, Lord Senon. Fells and heather moors, rising above 1,800ft, form 12,500 acres of the estate. The remaining 7,000 acres are lower-lying woods and farm-land, which would not to be covered by the right to roam. An area of 1,499 acres of



moorland around Clougha Pike, in the northwest corner of the estate, has been open to the public since the early 1970s, under an agreement Laneashire County Council, which leases the land

for £5,000 a year. A 30ft-wide access strip also provides walkers with a route from the Clougha area across the high moor, with a choice of two routes south over Tambrook Fell. The strip runs for 11 miles, after being extended by five miles several years ago. This is in addition to 26 miles of public footpaths and bridleways on lower

"On paper, this means that only 12 per cent of the moorland is open to the public," Mr Banks said. "But the access routes go over the most scenic parts of the estate. The amblers have failed to show why they need to be able to rosm at will, other than to assert a point of principle."

In a new concession last year, the duke started "wilderness walks" in which groups of up to 12 are taken on daylong rambles by council wardens over areas not normally open to the public. The plan is have one walk a month

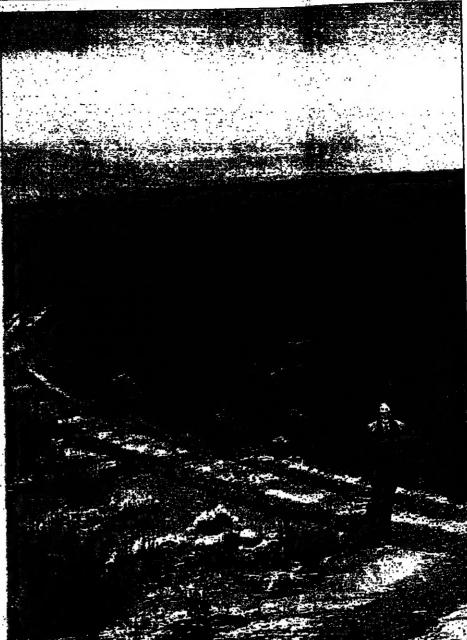
between October and March police the access areas, enforcing local bylaws which ban dogs, camping, bicycles and kite-flying. The county also rescues walkers who injure

themselves or get lost.
"Enforcing the bylaws will be much more difficult if people can go anywhere," Mr Banks said. "The question of liability for the safety of walkers is a potential legal nightmare, and the capital value of the land will diminish once exclusivity is lost." Tom Pye, one of 22 tenant

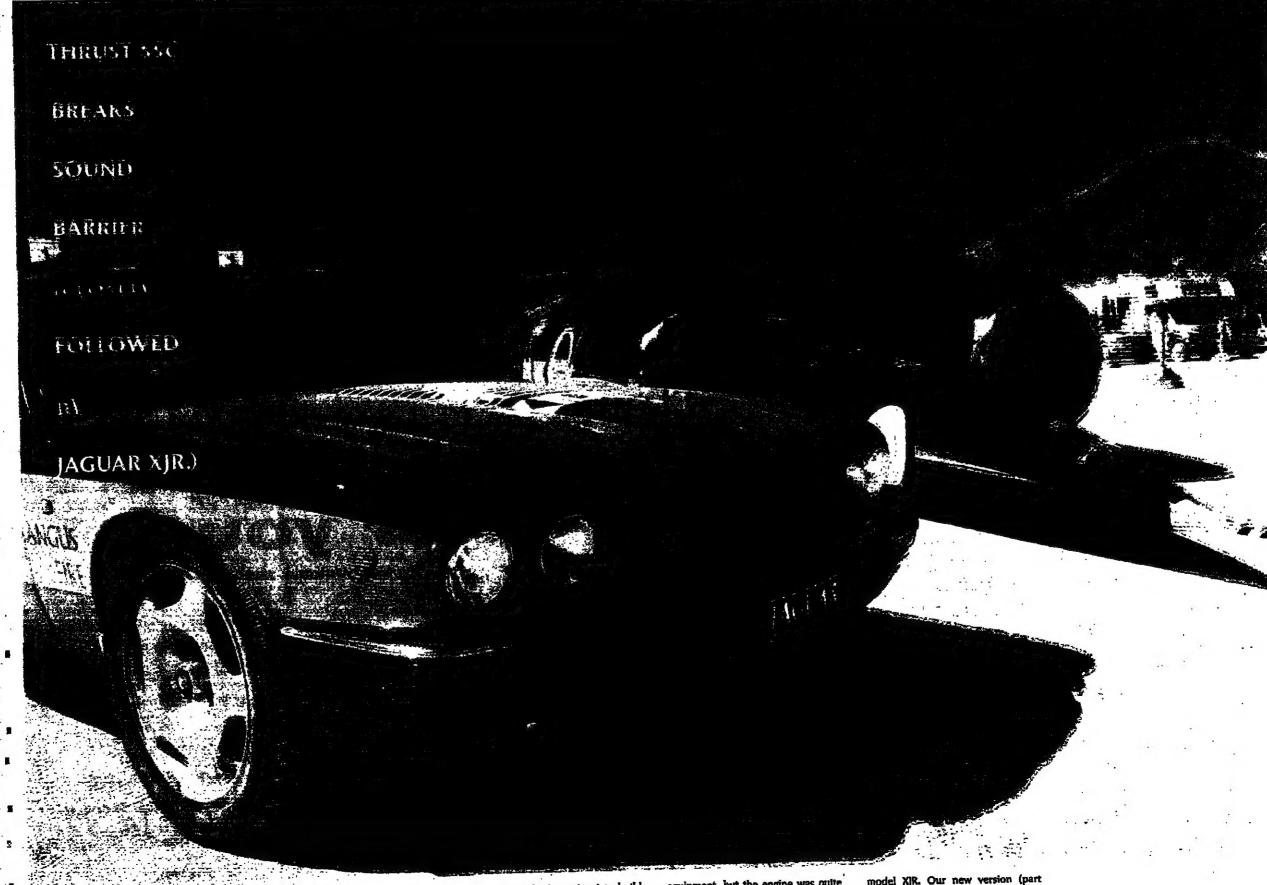
farmers on the estate, grazes his sheep on the fells. He said: "It will be more difficult to control vandalism and ramblers with dogs. Even now we get trouble. A few weeks ago. couple of teenage lads knocked down part of a stone wall for fun. It took us more than two days to repair it."

The estate offers some of the best grouse shooting in England. Mr. Banks worries that ramblers would disturb the ground-nesting birds during the spring and would hamper heather-burning between October and April. But the Ramblers' Associ-

ation believes that such fears are unfounded. "We have never asked for an unqualified right to roam." Ms Ashbrook said. "Landowners will still be allowed to close areas temporarily for grouse shoot-



Rod Banks, manager of the Abbeystead estate, in one of the public-access areas



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Parents protest at influx of Gypsy pupils

them and all this money is being

spent and they could just say

goodbye and disappear in a year. A lot of the parents are angry and it has got very heated. We feel we

Mr Shepherd declined to com-

ment and the education authority

PARENTS in Dover are threatening to remove pupils from schools that have had to accept more than 100 children from the Gypsy families seeking political asylum.

The Gypsies began arriving from Eastern Europe three months ago and about 800 are now living in the town. The local authority is obliged to provide for their children, who have been shared out among seven schools.

Aycliffe Primary, on a council estate on the outskirts of Dover, has taken six Slovak pupils and another 14 could soon join them. Since few of them speak any

Dover families fear their children's education will suffer as schools take in foreigners, reports Adrian Lee

tags to encourage other children to approach them.

Each morning the Slovaks are taught English before mixing with the other children at break and lunchtime and for lessons during the rest of the day. In a letter to a parent, the head teacher, lan Shepherd, said he was anxious not to segregate the foreign children, who were "frightened and shy". He expressed concern that some parents had threatened to withdraw their children, but he added: "I

heart that there will be no difference to [your child's] education.

Yesterday, Kent County Council said the extra cost of teaching the children of the asylum-seekers for a year would be £500,000. The parent who received the letter. Sue Doyle, 34, said: "It's disgusting. They should send them home. They have got to learn somewhere, but I don't see why our children should suffer. There are kids at that school who have been waiting for special

refused to name any of the schools at which the Slovaks are being taught. A spokesman said: "We needs teaching for ages. Another parent, Michaela Maxdon't want to draw attention to the

schools because of the potential for to complain of freeloaders and well, 24, who has two sons aged eight and six at the school, said: racial problems." "All this attention is being given to

Aycliffe was chosen because pupil numbers there are low. The head teacher also cited the school's "caring nature", making it an ideal environment in which the foreign children could "rebuild their lives". In his letter he said he had watched one Slovak four-year-old count to ten in German, demonstrating her

ability to learn languages. Feelings are also running high in other parts of the town. Residents

spongers" flooding Dover, which has a population of 30,000. Concern was also voiced by one local councillor that the sight of asylumseekers collecting benefit could

heighten tensions.

Several residents said they had seen asylum seekers shoplifting. One woman said: "I saw them ripping off security tags and stuff-ing clothes inside their jackets."

Yesterday Kent County Council other parts of the town. Residents that to discuss £27 million of budget have written to the local newspaper. cuts. It said it expected the total bill

it had reached saturation point but one council source said he had been told that up to 2,000 more eastern Europeans were on their way. In an interview with Slovak

television, Keith Ferris, the council's deputy leader, said: "There is nothing here for you. There is no seasonal work no place to stay. The place for you is Slovakia."

Yesterday the Ministry of De-fence offered a former Royal Marines barracks at Deal to house any further asylum-seekers.

Authorities count cost of providing for refugees

COUNCIL taxpayers in Kent emergency help for the flood of immigrants claiming asylum

at the Channel ports. in addition, those who claim asylum immediately on arriving at ports such as Dover and Ramsgate are allowed a range of state benefits, including income and child support of up to £100 a week, access to schooling and National Health Service treatment.

The sudden arrival of 46 Slovaks and 125 Czechs last weekend brought the total number of refugees in Dover between 700 and 800. Officials at Kent County Council estimate that the overall cost of dealing with the hundreds of asylum-seekers detained or living in bed and breakfast accommodation will be between £1 million and

62 million this year. They forecast that it will cost £500,000 to educate the children of asylum-seekers who are awaiting the outcome of their ain as refugees, with a further. Il million being spent by the social services department. The council has placed 200 children in schools in east

Kent, but officials are considering placing them instead in temporary accommodation where they can receive specialist help with their difficulties. particularly in teaching them English. The council has had to provide interpreters and help the children to settle down at schools in the county.

The council's social services department has also had to provide emergency clothing and shelter for refugees and at the weekend was forced to open a centre to house the sudden influx of Czech and Slovak families who had arri-

The council in Dover has paid_out £17,500 in housing benefits to asylum-seekers and the Government has raid a further £315,000 to help to meet accommodation costs. Since the beginning of April it has paid £9,500 to provide bed and breakfast accommodation

for asylum-seekers. If the authorities fear an tion detention centre costs £449 a week, compared with £560 in a prison, according to 1995-1996 figures.

A range of state benefits is



Avdi, 26, paid three months' wages to be carried across Europe with his wife, Zerife, 20, in the back of a lorry

claiming asylum immediately on arrival in Britian. The previous Government calculated that the average rate of seeker per week was £60.30 and that 54 per cent of asylumseekers received housing benefit in addition at about £81 a week. There are additional benefits available for people with children.

In an attempt to deter bogus asylum-seekers the Conservative Government cut welfare claimed asylum after arriving

local authorities who have

been faced with the burden of dealing with hundreds of people who wait months for applications to

ruled that local authorities had a duty to asylum-seekers under the National Assistance Act of 1948. Although the

has not covered the total sums

Then in July the courts ruled their own food, so councils have been forced to deliver meals on wheels or food-

Long journey in search for a better life

AVDI, 26, paid three months of his wages as a factory worker to travel to England in the back of a lorry, as he explained in a mixture of rudimentary English and German, and by scratching on the ground with a stone. He could not or would not say who carried him and his wife, Zerife, 20, nor how they got

He said that he was from the former Yugoslavia. "I had

6 My children police." He arrived in Dowill get a better three education and a months ago. staying in a better life. I never had these found a flat by possibilities 9 the council.

£35 a week in benefit - more than his wage back home. The couple said they had no idea of their route ecause the lorry was covered.

He receives

where I was going," said Avdi. "England, Germany, America, anywhere as long as it is free. I like it here and I want to live here, but I don't that councils were not allowed. know what is going to hapheen very good to us."

Another couple, who re-fused to be named, said that

Germany and France to reach Britain via Calais. They claimed they organised their own travel, buying tickets on the way and had chosen England because they had heard in their home city -Kosice, in Slovakia - that they would be welcomed here Two of their three children. aged six seven and nine, are in local schools after their arrival on August I.

English," said their father, a

would ties. I like to work." On Dover

said he was from Michalovce, eastern Slovakia: "With all that I get as an immigrant, I. can live better than at home working. We all had bad experiences. There is a mafia

working with skinheads." Most of the asylum-seekers wandering around town were reluctant to talk, even more Alzbethe Mikova, 40, from the Czech Republic, said: "We for our children.

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Mortgages

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19 Journey earch for

etter life

pogrom drives Romany exodus ACROSS Europe, Romany communities are gripped by Roger Boyes on the fear of a systematic persecution leading to the kind of

. Spectre of new

a people caught pogroms that destroyed their forefathers in the 15th century.

Facing hard times in the in the shadows

of Europe's new

problems and uncertainties

again. Although the Roma-nies of central Europe gave up their nomadic lifestyle 350 years ago, the shifting from one region to another has made it almost impossible for some families to present the residential qualifications needed to qualify for Czech citizenship.
Romanies chastered in the

Czech Sudetenland when the Germans were expelled by the Czech authorities after the war. When Czechoslovakia split in 1993, the Czech Govemment insisted that most of those Romanies - some 250,000 — were Slovaks, and Prague did its utmost to push them over the border.

Local authorities offer many reasons for this step - that the Romanies dominate crime syndicates, that they steal and prejudice, it is clear that the main fear was that the Romanies would overburden the welfare state. Slovakia has

Vladimir Mediar, the Prime Minister, has demanded cuts in child benefits, and unemplayment of Romanies in Slovakia is high most youths work as casual labourers

across the border in Austria. Even there, Romanies have been given rough treatment. A fake gravestone was placed by neo-Nazis near a former Austrian concentration camp which held Gypsies before they were sent to Auschwitz. When four Gypsies tried to rip it down, a pipe-bomb exploded and killed them.

to travel to Canada by a broadcast on the private Czech television channel Nova. The programme dismissed as misleading by Canadian authorities, suggested it was easy to gain asylum, Canadian

Romanies were encouraged

Britain featured in a Nova sequel to the programme on

An 18th-century drawing of Gypsies in central Europe. Said to have originated in the Punjah, they left Persia for Byzantium and the Balkans

Canada. With Your Own Eyes, screened on September 30, depicted the progress of a and five children from Kosice in eastern Slovakia to Dover, where he claimed asylum. The father complained that he school in Kosice because she

was taunted by fellow pupils. Recommendations about Britain were passed on by

word of month in a communering of six vehicles on a field, does not constitute a welcomity in which few read newspapers and few watched the Nova broadcast. But there seems no sign that the proparadise for Romanies. The 1994 Criminal Justice Act, scrapping the obligation on local councils to provide per-

and introducing the principle

of "mass trespass" for a gath-

Romanies are almost always considered bogus asy-lum-seekers in Britain. Yet evidence gathered by human rights organisations suggests

persecution across the continent. With almost eight mil-Romanies in Europe, represent its large



Canada opened door, then shut it

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

READERS are invited to a turn his inquiring, saturical forum with the best-selling eye once again on his

enough. On April 1, 1996, to foster closer relations with the Czech Republic, Canada lifted the requirement that Czech visitors first obtain a visa. Instead, they simply had to produce a passport and show

shanty towns and makeshift

settlements of eastern Europe,

thousands of Romanies have

begun a westward migration.

First Canada, now Britain, seemed to offer shelter from a

raw climate of persecution which has seen hostels set ablaze by neo-Nazis in the

Czech Republic and Germany, police beatings in Bulgaria and Romania, and even bomb

ill-treatment of Romanies is

nothing new: 400,000 died in

Nazi concentration camps.

But their world has been

changing rapidly for the worst since the collapse of Commu-

nism. Nationalist parties in central and eastern Europe

are free to stir up anti-Romany

the first to feel the pinch of

Women lost their jobs as

cleaners in state companies.

and the men were the first to be sacked. Ninety-five per cent of adults in the Romany

hettoes on the fringes of

Bulgarian cities are unem-

ployed. Petty crime, including

car theft, is their main source

Bureaucratic hurdles to

sentiment and Romanies were

economic reform.

In all of 1995, there had been only 29 Czech refugee applica-tions. By the end of 1996, there were 189. And the number kent increasing.

In August of this year, a programme aired on Czech television described Canada as a haven for Gypsies and a land of abundance where welfare was easy to get and Gypsies were not subject to discrimination in housing. jobs and educational opportu-nities. By September 30, a total of 1.285 Czech Gypsies

A satirical

walk with

BILL

BRYSON

author Bill Bryson, when

he will read extracts from

IT BEGAN innocently had arrived as tourists and applied as refugees. Half had arrived after the television programme On October 7, Lucienne

Robillard, the immigration Minister, reluctantly reimposed visa requirements on everyone coming to Canada as tourists from the Czech that she had no choice.

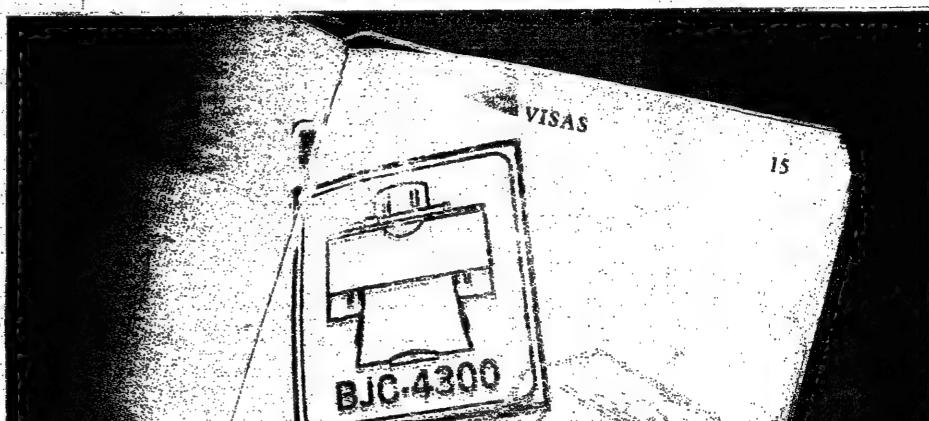
their best to tell Czech television that Canada was not the promised land, and that applying for refugee status meant a long stay in a shelter or cheap motel.

Since October 10, there has not been one refugee applica-tion from the Czech Republic. Canada Will continue to accept refugee applications at its never a problem with Gypsies from the Slovakia, because that visa requirement was never removed.

eye once again on his

The forum on Tuesday.

mive America.



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November 4, will be held at his gripping new book, A Walk in the Woods, giving 20 Bedford Way, London accounts of his experiences WCL, at 7.30pm. Tickets at EIO (concessions E7.50) inalong the longest footpath in the world, the Appalaclude £2 off the price of A Walk in the Woods The trail promised (Doubleday, £16.99). Bryson endless days of . There will also be walking nights of eating strange foods and, most ence to ask questions. importantly, the chance to THE BILL BRYSON FORUM rend rate _____ fichests at £10 each (£7.50 concession nea/Diffons Bill Bryson Forum on Tuesday, Novemb Institute of Education, 20 Sefort Way, London WC I enclose my cheque made payable to Dillons the Bookstore Or, please debit my Credit/Bank Debit / Dillons account card number PRINT NAME ...

The Times/Dillons Bill Bryson Forum Ilons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

'torture lance'

tric lance, used by Japanese to kill whales and long considered an instrument of torture by nations including Britain, is to be announced at the International Whaling Commission (FWC).

The decision considered the biggest breakthrough in animal welfare for more than a decade and coming after years of lobbying by conservation groups and nations led by Britain and New Zealand, follows new scientific evidence. It underlines the lance's cruelty and ineffectiveness as a killing tool.

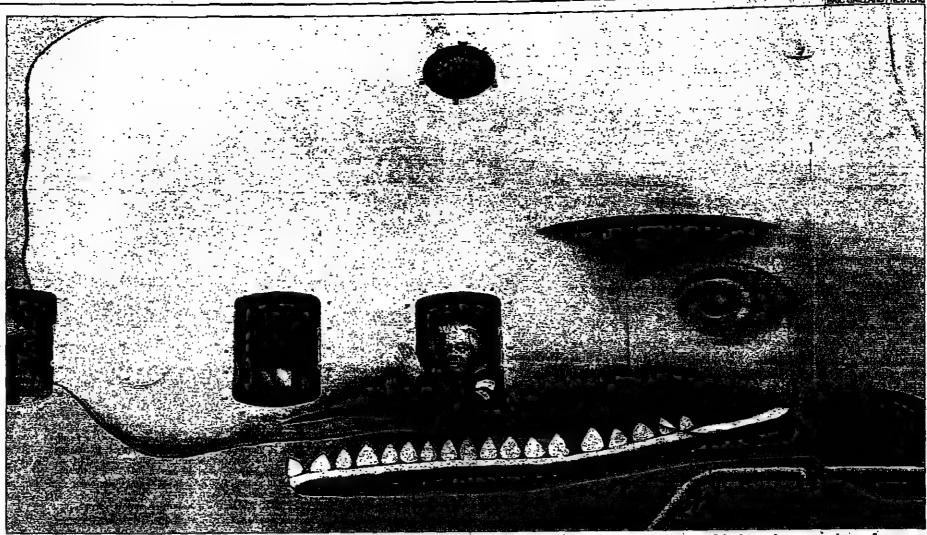
Elliot Morley, a junior Agriculture Fisheries and Food Minister who is attending the IWC's annual meeting which opened in Monaco yesterday, said: "This is the good news story that will come out of Monaco and a success story for us."

He said the Japanese had "accepted the new scientific evidence" on the ineffective-

THE withdrawal of the elec- harpooned whale to deliver current. Their ships have, over the past 12 months, been testing high-velocity rifles, and the whalers have concluded that they are more effective and easier to use.

Mr Morley said Britain. which expects the Japanese to announce the lance's withdrawl tomorrow or Thursday, remained opposed to whaling. But he said Japan was continuing to kill whales under the guise of scientific whaling. "Whales are being killed in quite large numbers. We want to use our influence to improve the welfare wherever possible. I think we have done that," he said.

David Bowles, European campaigner at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said: "We have been working to get rid of the electric lance. This is the first time a piece of whaling equipment has been phased out since 1980, when the cold harpoon was with-



Captain Paul Watson, a Canadian anti-whaling campaigner, aboard the ship Sea Shepherd in Monte Carlo port yesterday. He failed to gain entry to the conference

German euro row deepens

BY ROGER BOYES AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SHARP differences over the future shape of European economic and monetary union have been flushed to the surface by public disagreement between two influential members of the German centrai bank, the Bundesbank.

The controversy erupted as Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, met Tony Blair at Chequers for informal talks about Europe. The visiting leader was expected to urge the earliest possible British participation in the euro. The Bundesbank is required next spring to give its verdict on who should be allowed to entertain the first wave of euro. The report is regarded as vital in informing parliament before it votes on the issue and influencing the outcome of an EMU challenge in the consti-

The President of the central.

bank of North Rhine-Westphalia, Reimut Jochimsen. said at the weekend that he favoured a small monetary union, made up only of the socalled hard core countries. Long regarded as a highly sceptical participant of the 16member central bank council of the Bundesbank, Professor Jochimsen told an audience in Grainau he was shocked that serious government politi-

strict interpretation of the convergence criteria for monetary union and readying themselves to make the mark a "political dawn sacrifice for European integration".

Professor Jochimsen contradicted yesterday by another central bank council contradicted member. Klaus Dieter Kühbacher, who said that the monetary union should be

based on the largest possible cians were diverging from the number of participants.

> Bundesbank emphasised terday that prospective EMU participants had to demonstrate from the outset their ability to conform to the stability criteria. This is a reference to the Maastricht treaty requirements that euro participants keep their public

Social Democrats look to Blair

EUROPE'S Social Democrats have been flocking to London to win Tony Blair's support for their often contradictory policies on monetary (Michael Binyon

Paarvo Lipponen, Finland's Prime Minister, was yesterday the latest politician from Europe's northern tier to seek followed Gerhard

Schröder, the German Social Democrat, and Gunnar Lund. Sweden's Deputy Foreign

All agree that Britain decision will crucially affect the success of the single currency. ish Social Democrats want Britain in as fast as possible. the Swedes want Britain to stay out to lessen the pressure on Stockholm to follow other

when doing things together

strengthens relationships, are you one of

the 70% who regularly work weekends

European Union partners into economic and monetary

Mr Lipponen, who also had talks yesterday with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, said Finland wanted Britain to participate in the euro from the start. This would help to keep a balance among the larger states. But Britain's decision could not be rushed.

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and their total debt down to 60 per cent of GDP. Herr Tietmeyer said euro members should not be allowed "to grow into the euro" - that is,

given leeway later on. Analysts believe the Bundesbank council — unlike the public utterances of German politicians - may end up opposing Italian entry, since Italy's deficit figures for 1998 are expected to be substantially worse than in 1997.

In Italy, a chain of super-markets in 13 cities yesterday began pricing items in the new euro currency for a three-week. trial period.

"The earlier people get to know the euro, the better," pean Union's Consumer Comlaunching "It is a huge experiment. sychological revolution."

Goods at the stores participating in the initiative will be priced in both currencies. An exchange rate of 2,000 lire per

Another experiment - actually using euro notes — is going on in the Tuscan towns of Fiesole and Pontassieve. On October 1 residents began using the euro at more than 100 bars, clothing stores and other businesses for a six-

Anatole Kaletsky, page 20 Letters, page 21 Volatile markets, page 27

Flak aimed

at air force

candidate

FROM TOM RHODES

THE man chosen by President Clinton as the first black chief

of the US Air Force has become engaged in a racial doglight after former col-

leagues claimed he was an unsafe pilot and an egotist who played on his colour to

state senator whom the White

House plans to name as the next Secretary of the Air Force,

is regarded as a competent

politician. But his nomination has been jeopardised by a catalogue of past flying mis-

haps which led to a permanent

Fellow pilots in the 93rd Tactical Fighter Squadron, a

combat-ready reserve unit in

Florida, claim he was a negli-

gent pilot who blamed others for his inability and was "a formula for disaster". They

also allege that he was the

undeserving product of affir-mative action programmes de-

signed to help minorities. While the White House

maintains that Mr Jones is being hired as a civilian and

not an Flo pilot, the controversy is beginning to resonate at

the Pentagon and throughout a service already plagued by

widespread scandal.

Major Alan Estis, a reserv-

ist who was to become the

squadron's next commander,

has resigned from the air force

because he has refused to

work for Mr Jones. While Mr

Jones was an active-duty pilot of F4 fighters in the early 1980s, he was immediately

resented when he joined the 93rd squadron in 1989, All the

other new pilots had thousands of hours' flying time in Fl6s, while he had none.

grounding in 1991.

remain in the cockpit. Daryl Jones. 42, a Florida

Franc is spent force in mint revolution

FROM BEN MACINITYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE will stop minting francs in six months' time to make way for the euro. The is intended to show that the French Government is confident of joining the single European currency on time.

Barring any derailment in the schedule for economic and monetary union (EMU). the last franc will be struck next March, more than six centuries after the currency came into use. After that date, the mint at Pessac, near Bordeaux, where all French coinage is made, will produce only the European currency.

whether to join EMU has lent added significance to the alding the disappearance of the franc - which derives its name from historical anti-English feeling.

The franc emerged in 1360, at the height of the Hundred Years War, after the French King Jean II, known as "The Good", was captured by the English and ransomed for three million "gold ecus": the King was thus said to be "franc des Anglais" — free of the English. The name for a particular coin stuck, but it was not until the Revolution that the franc became part of

tem. Some 700 million new franc coins, in various denominations, will be struck between now and March, and the Bank of France has estimated that they will provide sufficient reserves to last until January 2002, when the euro is planned to be fully in use.

The single currency is due to be launched in January 1999, and the Pessac mint is expected to produce some 7.6 billion euro coins over the

6 Many still doubt that the country will drama to low

economic and monetary union in : the first wave 9

next three or four years. While the practicalities of introducing the euro are already well under way in France, many still doubt that the country will qualify to join EMU in

Nicolas Sarkozy, a former **Budget Minister and Gaullist** party spokesman, said the Socialist Government's policy of cutting the working week to 35 hours from 39 would prevent France from meeting the Maastricht criteria. "We will not be among those who will double, those who will have a maximum deficit of 3 per cent of GDP, which is one of the required criteria. We are doing exactly the opposite of what other European countries are doing, and are going to have to pay for it with tens

Even before production of the franc ceases the French currency appears to be van-ishing, with the mysterious appearance of millions of ten-franc pieces. Currency ex-perts blame booming tourtourists spend at least one night in France each year. while un additional 50 million

take a day-trip.

If each of these people takes away two or three tenfranc bits, that makes hundreds of millions removed from circulation." Emmanuel Constans, the currency director, said.

Charles Pasqua, the former Gaullist Interior Minister and veteran anti-Maastricht campaigner, yesterday called for another referendum on whether France should join EMU, arguing that condi-tions had changed since the country narrowly voted in favour of the treaty in 1992.

Rome see allay fea allay fea allay fea

Musicar Houses

FOUR EABLICOIS. CARS TO BE WON



This week The Times has teamed up with The Sunday Times and Churchill Insurance to offer readers the chance to win one of four exciting cars worth around £20,000 each. The Lotus Elise is one of the most

exciting cars of recent years, technically innovative with fabulous styling and incredible handling. The Freelander is

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Rome seeks to allay fears of apocalypse

THE Vatican sought yester-day to reassure Italians over widespread fears that the continuing Umbrian earthquakes presage a pre-millennial disaster, and possibly the end of the world.

Senior Vatican officials revealed for the first time that the third "secret of Fatima" to which only the Pope and his closest advisers have access is not linked to the millennium and contains no forecast of apocalyptic doom. The earthquakes, which have damaged priceless artworks in centres of Christianity such as Assisi and Spoleto, are regarded by some Italians as proof of dire forecasts allegedly contained in the writings of the loth-century astrologer Nostradamus, and in prophecies linked to appearances by the Virgin Mary to three peasant child-ren in Fatima. Portugal, in

In an unusual move, Cardi-nal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Docmodern successor to the Inquisition — told the Catholic daily L'Avvenire that reports that

The Vatican has and have never been pub-lished. The first is said to offer a hellish vision of "charred lifted the veil on bodies in an ocean of fire" - a possible forecast of the Second World War - coupled with a message to the world to rethe 'last secret of pent". The second secret, which was disclosed in 1942 by Cardinal Ildelonso Schuster of Fatima', reports Richard Owen Milan, was that Russia, which

was in the grip of a Marxist revolution at the time of the visions, would "spread her errors throughout the world, the "last secret of Fatima" referred to the disintegration of the papacy and the Church causing wars and persecuin a worldwide social and tion", but ultimate disaster moral collapse were untrue. would be averted if Russia The "secrets" were revealed by reconverted to Christianity, the Virgin Mary — a lady brighter than the sun* — to Sister Lucia, now a Carmelite nun in her nineties at Coim-Lucia dos Santos and her two bra, near Fatima, suggests the cousins while they were tendof Mikhail Gorbachev ing sheep. The vision occurred and a Polish Pope - John Paul six times, to a growing crowd II — together constituted "an action by God to free the world of witnesses, culminating in "balls of fire" as the sun from the danger of nuclear appeared to fall to earth, a phenomenon seen by 70,000 Many believe, however, that

Fatima has since become a significant Marian shrine, with obsessive speculation about the "three secrets" which are held in the Vatican

of the century" because of the failure of the world to repent fully. In a rare interview yesterday, Loris Francesco Capovilla, the former secretary to Pope John XXIII, said the Fatima document contained "no deadline of doom". He told La Stampa: The secret is not linked to the end of the millennium as people have claimed." Mgr Capovilla, 82, is one of the few people other than the Pope, Cardinal Ratzinger and

the "third secret" involves a

terrible cataclysm at the end

Sister Lucia who knows what the Fatima secrets contain. Inthe secretive world of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, it is highly unusual for a papal secretary to make disclosures. He said he could not reveal what the third secret was, but talk of "millions of deaths" was inaccurate. You can exclude this." he said. Mgr Capovilla said the "horrors" of the Spanish Civil

War and the Holocaust, to which the secrets appeared to refer, were behind us. "Of course more will die, but you don't need divine inspiration to see that. Man is capable of



Pilgrims at Fatima where the Virgin Mary is said to have given prophecies to three peasant children in 1917

atomic weapons around. It only takes one madman to lose his head ... only now are we becoming aware of the responsibility we all share." Asked if the prophecy would cause panic if revealed publicly, he replied elliptically that "nothing could be worse" than the private troubles many families already had to face.

Sister Lucia sent the "secrets" in a handwritten letter to Pope Plus XII but said their meaning would not be-come clear until 1960. Pius XII died in 1958, and in 1960 his successor John XXIII set in motion the reformist Second Vatican Council, which some see as the beginning of damaging divisions between liberal and conservative Catholics Last week René Laurentin. a theologian, said the third secret was that the Church would collapse because of "temptations and deviations".

But Mgr Capovilla said that "Internal struggles within the Church have nothing to do with the Fatima prophecy. We have always had heresies and disputes." He also denied reports that Pope Paul VI was

phrase: 'I make no judgewhen he spoke about "the ment"." smoke of Saturn entering the

Church". Mgr Capovilla said it was not clear whether Pius XII had ever opened the Fatima letter, which he had found "sealed in the archives. It was only after he had announced the Second Vatican Council that John XXIII went to Castelgandolfo the Popes' summer residence and asked me to bring him the Fatima letter. He did not open

When Paul VI became Pope in 1963, he asked the Holy Office for the Fatima letter, and panic ensued when it could not be found. "I told them it was in the Pope's own desk, in a right-hand drawer, second or third down. A few days later, Paul VI asked me whether John XXIII had said anything except 'I make no judgment'. I said no, and the

6 The Fatima secret contains no deadline for doom and is not linked to the end of the millennium, as people have claimed 3

it until his confessor came five days later." Mgr Capovilia said the Pope handed him the letter, "four or five pages handwritten in dialect by a girl with only local culture. It was not easy to understand." It was translated by Mgr Paolo Tavares, later Bishop of Macao. "The Pope then dictated a note to me, saying. The Holy Father has read this letter and orders it to be put

Pone said, 'In that case, I shall not say anything either"."

Despite the attempts to calm fears, the disclosures are unlikely to put an end to premillennial speculation, especially since Pope John Paul II has hinted at apocalyptic visions. Talking to German prelates privately in 1980, he said: "When you read that oceans will inundate entire continents, and that millions

snatched from them in a second - if you know this, there is no need to publish the secret." The Pope is devoted to the cult of Fatima, and regards it as providential that the abortive attempt on his life by a Turkish gunman in 1981 took place on May 13, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. He donated the bullet extracted from his body to the shrine, where it is embedded in the Virgin's golden crown, surrounded by pearls and precious stones. Rome: A series of earth

tremors shook central Italy

resterday, registering between

3.2 and 4 on the Richter scale. the Rome Institute of Geophysics reported. There were no reported victims or damage from the tremors, which were all centred near Sellano, Casenove di Foligno and Verchiano, on the border between the provinces of Umbria and the Marches, 120 miles north of Rome. The total damage from the Assisi earthquake last month has been estimated at nearly 2,000 bil-lion lire (£714 million) and 38,000 people have still not been able to return to their

Milosevic puppet ousted by liberal reformer

By Tom Walker

VICTORY was claimed by Milo Djukanovic in the runoff for the Montenegrin presidency yesterday, the first non-nationalist to climb to the top in Yugoslav politics in

The dapper reformist, 35, wants to give Montenegro increased autonomy from its sister state, Serbia, while staying within the Yugoslav Federation. He is an avowed opponent of federal President Milosevic, and claims that his rise to power signals the beginning of the end for the region's former war-

The man Mr Djukanovic has deposed, Momir Bulatovic, a Milosevic loyalist, accepted defeat with bad grace, claiming that voting lists were rigged and predicting the break-up of Yugoslavia. Djukanovic supporters cele-brated with fireworks and a display of automatic weapons

During the campaigning. Mr Djukanovic said he want ed to liberalise the Montenegrin economy and negotiate for international credits with lenders such as the World Dank and the International Monetary Fund.

Montevegro, with less than tenth of Serbia's population, is barred from such financing by the "outer wail" of sanctions imposed on Yugoslavia, thanks mainly to Mr Milosevic's unwillingness to co-operate on human rights and the handing over of war criminals.

Mr Diukanovic described himself as "a modern political personality who will turn a page in political life here". He was, he said, "an opponent of any form of nationalism. I do not believe in the concept of the nation state, I believe in the civil state".

Without being specific on the arrests of The Hague's two most wanted war crimes suspects, Radovan Karadzie and Ratko Miadic, Mr Djukanovic agreed that Yugoslavia must honour its com-

Mir pair clear floating debris

nauts on the damaged space station Mir retrieved a retrigerator door and other floating debris yesterday during a sixhour mission inside the airless Spekir module, punctured when the complex collided with a cargo spacecraft (Robin

Wearing bulky spacesuits,

Flight Commander Anatoli Solovyov and Flight Engineer Pavel Vinogradov squeezed through the narrow hatch into the Spektr module to reroute cables from its solar panels to a working computer.

Their first task was to gather and secure all the belongings of Michael Foale,

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naut who completed a fourmonth mission on Mir in September - which have been floating around Spektr since the June accident. With all the flying objects — including the fridge door — secured or collected into bags, the two realigning the power cables.

SUMMARY

WORLD

Ali boxing souvenirs fetch \$1.3m

Los Angeles: Hundreds of souvenirs of Muhammad Ali's boxing career fetched more than \$1.3 million (£800,000) at a controversial charity auction snubbed by the boxer (Giles Whittell writes).

One cigarette went for \$1,900, and Ali's clothing from his "rumble in the jungle" in Zaire sold for nearly \$250,000. But Ali, who styled himself as "the greatest", has claimed that some items were stolen from him. He was not at the auction room for Sunday's sale. Christie's said it held the title to every item sold.

Kidnap pledge

Sanaa: The Yemeni authorities have assured the British Thompson, a British aid worker kidnapped by tribesmen, will be released soon, a spokesman said. (AFP)

Rising heat

Sydney: Greenpeace activists climbed onto the roof of the home of John Howard, the Australian Prime Minister, to assemble solar panels in pro-test at his "flawed" policy on greenhouse gases. (Reuters)

Cannon victim

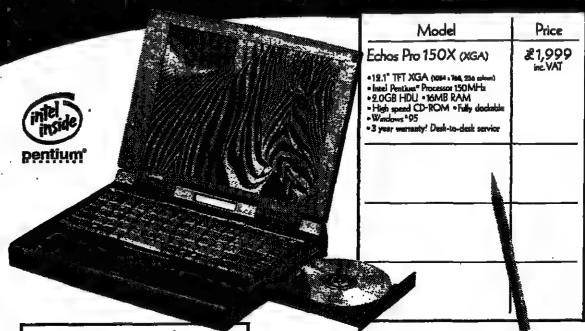
Cincinnati: A boy aged 14 is in serious condition in hospital here after being thrown 18ft in the air as a cannon misfired during a US Civil War battle being re-enacted in an Ohio park. (Reuters)

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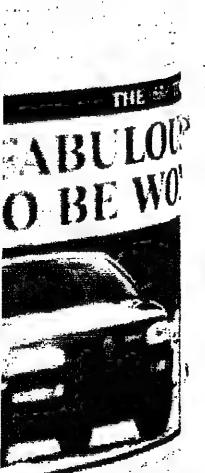
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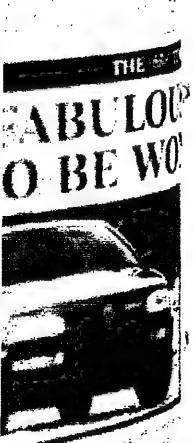


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Blast has bream of for Sril

raeli mother

Ciedia

French rescue foreigners in Congo chaos

Gabon yesterday rescued a group of French and African nationals who had been trapped by fighting in the south of Congo-Brazzaville.

French Lieutenant-Colonel Christian Battiste said the group of 19. including five French citizens, were plucked from a town in Zanaga region, 180 miles northeast of the ousted President Lissouba's stronghold of Dolisie.

Fighting has been reported in the region where his forces and militia allies retreated after losing a five-month civil war in the capital last week. French troops evacuated 59 foreigners, most of them French, last Friday after the civil war victory of the Cobra militia of the former military ruler, General Denis Sassou-

General Sassou-Nguesso's forces took control of Brazzaville, the capital, last Tuesday and, together with Angolan army allies, overran the oil hub of Pointe Noire to the south last Wednesday. Security sources reported massive looting by the victorious forces and growing insecurity in the two cities.

Last night, Angolan commandos sent as part of a team. of shock troops whose first task was to take over the capital in support of General Sassou-Nguesso were guard-ing the presidential palace in Brazzaville. "It's difficult," said Frank, an Angolan com-



The Angolan rebels of Jonas Savimbi face a multinational campaign to destroy them, Sam Kiley in Brazzaville reports

anyway?" As he picked his way through the charred hairdressing salon built for the exclusive use of Albertine Dibebeke, wife of deposed President Lissouba, he said: "My Government has sent me as some kind of mercenary."
After months of fighting, the centre of the city has been flattened or shattered into vast

6 We must restore order and will do so fast. We are going to collect all the weapons in the wrong hands ?

concrete splinters, leaving about 4,000 dead. However, the battle for the once-sleepy capital of an obscure African country was part of a wider regional campaign which diplomats and sources inside several African security services said will cul-

minate in a multinational

effort to destroy the rebel

Union for the Total Indepen-

dence of Angola (Unita), led by Jonas Savimbi. President dos Santos of Angola and Paul Kagame, the Rwandan Vice-President, are expected to arrive discreetly in Kinshasa, a mile across the Congo River from Brazzaville, to discuss what is being dubbed "Africa's Operation Cleanup" today,

In the past 12 months the leaders of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and what is now the Demo-cratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) have connived in ousting Mobutu Sese Seko from Kinshasa, and in attempts to contain rebel movements in Uganda and Rwanda.

They have also increased support to Sudan's southern rebels, who are fighting for autonomy from Khartoum's radical Islamic Government.

Yesterday Angolan troops tightened security around Brazzaville's international airport in a clear sign that the Angolans' invasion of Congo-Brazzaville from Cabinda, and their support in Brazzaville itself, was far from the temporary security operation that their Government claimed last



rear bases in the Democratic Republic of Congo after Mobutu, its ally, fell, Unita lost its last external camps in Congo-Brazzaville last week. The next target will probably be Units. That will take a lot of preparation." said a central

African intelligence source, Dr Savimbi's rebels, who have been fighting the central years, have earned \$600 million (£372 million) a year from

diamond exports since 1992. more than enough to finance a war in the region. But such grand schemes will have to

The immediate task of the Angolan troops, General Sassou-Nguesso's Cobras and several experienced Airican standing relationship with French intelligence, who have been leading the militia, will bers of armed men roaming the streets of the capital in search of loot.

The pickings are thin. Most civilians fled the fighting when it broke out in June after President Lissouba sent soldiers to disarm General Sassou-Nguesso's forces, leaving their homes and businesses to be fought over.

"We have to restore order and will do so very fast. We are going to collect all the weapons in the wrong hands," said Brazzaville's military leader, General Jean-Marie

The fighting has been over for a week in Brazzaville, but doctors said yesterday that at in the city's hospitals each day, mostly victims of random shooting and petty squabbles.

At Brazzaville's beach, a

muddy bank which serves as the only route for goods crammed into dugouts and paddled over the Congo from Kinshasa, guns, beer and strong pot make a terrifying cocktail. The market for smuggird goods and looted refrigerators and televisions continue against a background of

guntire. Yesterday, Mr Lissouba was in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso.



Mrs Mandela: calling for return of death penalty

Mrs Mandela makes populist bid for power

FROM R. W. JOHNSON

Madikizela-Mandela for the deputy presidency of the Afritaken a new turn with her launch of an all-out populist to the party leadership

Mrs Mandela, who is still facing investigation by the

Commission for her alleged involvement in at least eight murders and is facing a rash of legal demands over her non-payment of various debts. President Mandela's heir-apparent, Thabo Mbeki, the current ANC deputy president, is doing all he can to block her bid. She has in effect

Mandela has accused the ANC leadership of being in league with other political parties against her and of having betrayed its 1994 elec-- well aware that opinion polls show a big majority of black South Africans in favour of bringing back the death penalty (abolished by the ANC) and bitterly hostile to the illegal immigrants competing for scarce jobs - asked why the Government was not doing more to stop the influx.

especially from Mozambique, and called for a referendum on capital punishment, making it clear that she favours its Both of these accusations are unnerving to ANC leaders. who have been keen to sweep such issues under the carpet. Mrs Mandela also criticises

the Government for failing to implement a constituencybased parliamentary system, for operating affirmative-ac-tion policies "based on nepotism rather than merit, for failing to heed left-wing and trade union criticism of its economic policy and for fail-



Mbekir threatened

ing so badly to deliver the nouses it promised to blacks. She points out, moreover, that many of the houses the Government has built are oneroom affairs - matchbox houses", she calls them - to which buyers are expected to add on. Mrs Mandela says that such housing is far interior to the township houses built during the apartheid years.

No one doubts that the ANC leadership is vulnerable to grassroots criticism on all these issues and that.

putting herself at the head of his ex-wife. Mr Mandela, the expected populist back however, has shown a strong tash, Mrs Mandela has proba-disinchination to get involved bly strengthened her chances. Mr Mbeki's office — already deeply threatened by her trying to force Matthews. Phosa, the ANC premier of Mpumalanga province, to give up his bid for the deputy presidency so that the anti-Winnie vote can be rallied behind the establishment can-

didate, Jacob Zuma. This tactic - revealed by a furious Mrs Mandela — has backfired as the popular and able Mr Phosa has refused to stand down. He is clearly resentful of Mr Mbeki's leadership and could even end up by swinging some of his support behind Mrs Mandela.

Mr. Mbeki will not have forgotten that at the last ANC conference in 1992 he suffered the humilation of being shouted down from the floor; such occasions are not his strength, as he is distinctly lacking in grassroots appeal or charisma. He will be relying heavily on Nelson Mandela, the retiring party president, to use his own huge popularity against

in any matter pertaining to Mrs Mandela. Moreover, thanks to his impending visit

epough of his own at present.
The ANC has accordingly decided to try to strangle all such challenges by proposing an amendment to its constitution, according to which anyone who runs or even campaigns against a candidate for office who has been duly endorsed" by the party leader ship will be automatically

This draconian attempt to stifle democracy is bound to draw scathing criticism not only from other parties but from many within the ANC ranks. This Soviet-style discipline stems essentially from the former exiles who now dominate the upper level of ANC leadership. This contrasts sharply with the more democratic customs of the mass anti-apartheid movement inside the country and risks creating new fissures from which Mrs Mandela can



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By Michael Binyon, diplomatic editor

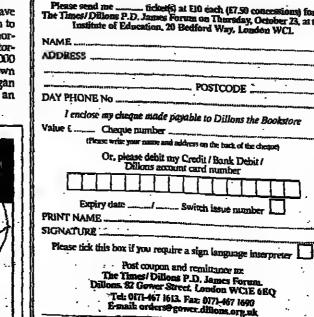
IN a signal ahead of the Commonwealth summit that Britain is committed to a new moral foreign policy, the Government yesterday told Sierra. Leone's government-in-exile that it had taken a "clear moral stand" against the military rulers in Freetown.

Lending unusual support to government-in-exile, Britain offered a platform in London to politicians ousted in the May coup and will invite President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah to the Commonwealth summit in Edinburgh, which begins on Friday. Tony Lloyd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told the meeting that the message to the junta's representative to the summit will be: "Get out while the possibility of doing so peacefully still remains."

that we do not forget, and that the world understand, the kind of people we are dealing with. The military junta can be clear that there is no government to whom it can look for support in the region. any more than in the wider

He promised that Britain would give the legitimate Government whatever help it needed to get the country back on its feet, once it was returned to power. Mr Kabbah said of Britain: "A friend in need is a friend indeed.

The junta's leaders have agreed to send a delegation to a meeting in Guinea tomorrow to resume talks on restoring democracy. At least 10,000 people have fled Freetown since Nigerian jets began bombing targets there in an



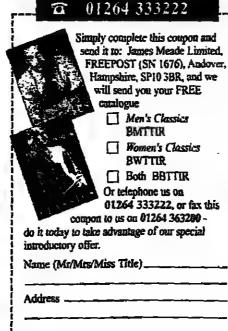
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THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM An evening with P.D. James P.D. James, Britain's most popular crime novelist, will discuss her highly successful career, her life as a writer and her characters, including the famous Commander Adam Dalgliesh—the subject of a major TV series—in The Times/Dillons forum on Thursday, October 23. Chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of The Times the forum also offers the conceptuality The Times, the forum also offers the opportunity for the awlience to put questions to Baroness James. The forum marks the publication of her new book A Certain Justice (Paher and Faber £15.99) and will be held at the Institute of Education. 20 Bedford Way, London WCl at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 (concession 17.50), which includes £2. Er.50) which includes £2 off the price of the book. Subject to nd this event will be interpreted by sign language. THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM Please send me _____ ticket(s) at £10 each (£7.50 concessions) for The Times/Dillons P.D. James Forum on Thursday, October 23, at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WCL POSTCODE : I enclose my cheque made payable to Dillons the Bookstore Cheque number . Or, please debit my Credit / Bank Debit / Dillons account card number

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Blast has killed dream of peace for Sri Lanka

A LORRY bomb that shartered the heart of Colombo. the Sri Lankan capital, last week appears to have sealed the fate of a faltering peace initiative designed to give Tamils something close to their dream of an independent homeland.

The blast killed 18 people and wounded more than 100. including some British holidaymakers. Now three years political optimism have evaporated; almost nobody doubts the war will go on.

The Government, headed by President Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, is due to introduce a White Paper to parliament this month detailing its proposals for substantial devolution to the regions, principally to give the Tamil minority control over areas where they are concentrated. But it has little chance of gaining enough opposition support to become law.

Pressure on parliamentary time means the proposals can-not be debated until early next year. Legislation will require a two thirds majority to change the Constitution and radically alter the country's administrative and political structure. The opposition United National Party has not committed itself, which seems tantamount to rejection.

The Government intends to hold a referendum on the

Tamil ambitions

seem doomed.

says Christopher

Thomas in

Colombo

parliamentary majority, giv-ing the Opposition the power veto. The Government's opponents say no peace plan can work without the involvement of the Tigers, who have

The rebels are effectively the only voice of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. They have eliminated all important rivals and silenced any public opposition in the Tamil community with the threat of assassination. Tamil MPs and commenta-tors are forced to operate in what is now an intellectual vacuum, making it difficult for the Government to assess the mood of the minority community, who are 18 per cent of the population.

The rebels have never negotiated in good faith or demonstrated any readiness to accept a solution falling short of their called Eclam, in the north and east of the island. Seventy per cent of Sri Lanka's Tamils live there, and any eventual peace

the fears of hundreds of thousarids of Muslims and Sinha-

Non-Tamils have reason to fear "ethnic cleansing": the Tigers drove out 90,000 Muslims from the northern Jaffna eninsula in 1987 and Muslims in the east continue to be

The apparent hopelessness of the political process is matched by a costly stalemare in the military battle to open a road link from Jaffna to the south, which has cost the lives of an estimated 800 govern-ment troops since it was launched in May. So far, 12 miles of road have been captured. The front lines have not changed in some weeks, and some government officials areworried by the human and material cost of the operation. The annual defence budget is £600 million — a fifth of the Government's total income,

Sri Lanka is looking to Britain to follow America in naming the Tamil Tigers as a terrorist organisation and banning it. The rebels' huge worldwide empire has its headquarters in London, the heart of its propaganda machine. Sri Lanka estimates that expatriate Tamils in Britain -many own garages and other businesses and a number are lawyers and doctors - contribute £250,000 a month to



President Kumaratunga has little chance of gaining opposition votes for reforms

the Tigers, equivalent to 20 per cent of their presumed world-

Liam Fox, a junior Foreign Minister in the former Conservative Government, brokered a political breakthrough last year under which both main political parties promised not to undermine any deal between the Tigers and Colombo, provided each side was kept informed.

Twenty-four countries have offered to act as mediators in any peace talks. But, after the rebels broke the last ceasefire in April 1995, all channels of

communications broke down Neelan Tiruchelvam, a respected Tamil MP, said: "In terranean lines of communication. But here there are none, Nobody really knows what the

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Israeli mothers launch 'quit Lebanon' protest

for pow



FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER

A POWERFUL new Israeli protest movement of soldiers' mothers has launched demonstrations urging a military withdrawal from Lebanon, after the toll of troops killed there this year rose at the weekend to 38.

Standing near a military gate to the self-styled "security zone" which Israel has occupied since a partial withdraw al from Lebanon in 1985; scores of Jewishir women waved at soldiers. rossing the border in convoy. Many held signs saying "Leave Lebanon in

soldiers died in a helicopeer crash in February. The helicopters involved in the mid-air collision were ferrying troops to duty in Lebanon where the pro-Iranian group Hezbollah is wag-ing war against the Israeli presence. "We have lost far too many soldiers

over the years, and the Four Mothers movement is asking the Government to Withdraw unilaterally in order to defend ourselves like every other country does," said Linda Ben-Zvi. Mrs Ben-Zvi claimed that the "sec-

urity zone" had proved a liability which did not prevent guerrilla rocket attacks on Israel, usually carried out in

The group is reminiscent of an

earlier Israeli campaign against in-volvement in Lebanon launched after the 1982 invasion to drive out the PLO. Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, said yesterday it had honoured two members who last month helped to thwart a murder attempt on Khaled Meshaal, one of its leaders, by a hit squad sent to Jordan

by Mossad, Israel's secret service. Hamas said that the two men. Mr Meshaal's driver and bodyguard, were feted at a party and presented with money and tickets for a pilgrimage to oca for their coura

attacked him with a deadly poison.

Relations between Jordan and Israel, severely strained by the decision of Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, to allow the attack to proceed on Jordanian territory, remained tense yesterday after Amman protested officially to Israel over an attack on one of its diplomatic residences in Tel Aviv by what it said were Jewish extremists.

☐ Beirut Gunmen with silenced pistols killed Omar al-Banna, a relative of Abu Nidal, the Palestinian terrorist leader, and wounded another here. Police believe the attack was part of

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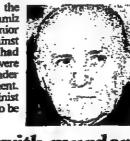
NEWS IN BRIEF

Soros pledges £300m to assist needy Russians

Moscow: George Soros, the billionaire financier, yesterday outlined one of the most ambitious charitable projects of the post-Cold War era, when he pledged more than £300 million to help needy Russians (Richard Beeston writes). Speaking in Moscow. where he is established as one of the largest foreign investors, the Hungarian-born businessman said the thrust of his project was to assist the country's ailing healthcare and education systems, as well as the demoralised armed forces. Indirectly, the funding is aimed at assisting President Yeltsin's reform-led Government. which has three years to the next election.

Tirana drops genocide case Tirana: A court here acquitted the

former Communist President, Ramiz Alia, right, and three other senior officials of genocide and crimes against humanity. State prosecutors had dropped the charges because they were not part of Albania's legislation under the former Communist government. Mr Alia, successor to the Stalinist dictator Enver Hoxha, is believed to be fiving in Paris. (AP)



Pastor charged with murder

Brussels: A 70-year-old Hungarian-born Protestant pastor, Andreas Pandy, has been charged with the murder of two of his former wives and four of his eight children and may have had other victims, the Brussels prosecutor's office said. Investigators found a human leg. a hip and skull pieces under a concrete floor in one of the pastor's properties in a Brussels suburb. (AFP)

Machel 'poisoned after crash' Johannesburg: South Africa has reopened an inquiry into the death of Samora Machel, Mozambique's President, in a 1986 air crash because of new evidence pointing to murder. The Sapa news agency said that when Machel's plane crashed in South

Africa a doctor was sent to the scene, found the Marxist leader alive and poisoned him. (AFP) Solidarity in coalition deal

Warsaw: The conservative Solidarity bloc and the liberal

Freedom Union have struck a compromise to form a coalition Government. Solidarity will control the Treasury and Social Policy Ministry, pursuing pension reform founded on mass privatisation. Jerzy Buzek, S7, designated Prime Minister, is expected to announce his Cabinet by Friday. (Reuters)

Police sting scorpion sellers

Pretoria: South African police smashed a smuggling syndicate with links to Europe and the United States, seizing 150 snakes, 185 scorpions and scores of birds destined to become illegal pets. Seven suspects were arrested, Codenamed Operation Cobra, the raids across the country followed a two-year undercover inquiry by the police's endangered species protection unit. [Reulers]

Amnesty for airline thieves

Johannesburg: South African Airways has offered thieving staff an anmesty if they return stolen property within the next month after several employees were arrested in connection with the loss of items worth millions of rands (Inigo Gilmore writes). One staff member was jailed for stealing a 300,000 rands (£40,000) forklift truck which he drove out of an airport at the end of work.

An evening wi p.D. James

JIMMY CARTER, the former American Presi-dent, has added his voice to those pressing Janet Reno, the Attorney-Gener-al, to appoint an independent counsel to investipolitical fundraising.

Mr Carter, the last Democrat President before Mr Clinton, said accusations of murky fundraising had given the "not always erroneous" inpression that to get help from Washington. you've got to contribute money and a so-called legal bribe". The former President blamed both parties for that impression, adding that a full investigawould allow the Administration to get on

with its business. But his televised comments late on Sunday added fuel to Republican excitement that the longrunning investigations by Congress and the Justice Department may finally lead to an independent counsel being appointed. Ms Reno must decide by December 2 whether to bring in a special investigator, who would examine if Mr Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore Infringed campaign finance

Jiang hits back at American rights activists

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN A rare series of interviews with foreign journalists, President Jiang Zemin of China yesterday called for a new level of co-operation between Washington and Beijing, at-tempting to defuse criticism by human rights activists of his visit to America this weekend.

In a move clearly designed to smooth the path for the first state visit to America by a Chinese leader since the Tiananmen Square massacre, Mr Jiang urged Americans to seek common ground with Beijing despite differences over rights, Talwan and Tibet. He said both nations shared "the responsibility for preserv-

ing world peace and stability". His interviews with Time magazine and The Washington Post came as United States officials in Beijing hinted that China may be persuaded to free a number of jailed dissidents on medical parole, including Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dang, the celebrated activists both nominated for this year's Nobel Peace Prize. The concerted public relations effort by the Chinese and the White House in advance of the visit is intended to show signs of reconciliation and to thaw the sometimes glacial diplo-macy that has existed between

the two countries since the army brutally quelled the pro-democracy uprising in 1989. Although Mr Jiang said Wei

and Wang were no threat to stability in his country, he continued to describe them as "common criminals". His steadfast support of China's policy in the Tiananmen Square massacre, over Tai-wan and in Tibet will only further fuel activists in America who are planning to make his tour one of the most controversial visits in history. Richard Gere, Harrison

Ford, Urna Thurman and



Jiang: faces protests

A digital camera

that gives a whole

term 'roving eye'.

Sharon Stone, the film stars, are planning a "stateless" banquet for Tibet to coincide with the White House state feast. A series of Hollywood films about the Himalayan region, including last week's release of Seven Years in Tibet, has heightened public awareness of the issue and Mr Jiang is expected to receive a hostile reception during a planned address at Harvard. The Chinese leader gave

assurances that he would continue with economic reform but said that Beijing must limit the scope of direct demo-cratic participation in order to ensure stability and economic

The theory of relativity worked out by Albert Einstein, which is the domain of natural science, I believe can also be applied to the political field,"

"Both democracy and hu-man rights are relative concepts and not absolute and general. One country's human rights situation cannot be separated from the actual conditions of that country . . . I hope the West understands that our primary issue is to assure that all Chinese people have adequate access to food



Craig Brown pouring water from the Pacific Ocean into the Indian Ocean near.

Triumph Galllist walkabout **Britons**

BY ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY AND SIMON DE BRIXELLES

TWO Britons who decided to walk across Australia, with-out realising the other was embarking on the same jour-ney, have arrived in Perth

less than 18 hours apart.

In the process they both smashed the previous record for the fastest crossing of Australia on foot.

Craig Brown, 23, a publi-can from Cheltenham and can from Chesendam and former trooper in the House-hold Cavalry, broke the 95-day record set by Ffyona Campbell, the English walker, in 1988 by 18 days. Debi Reader, 36, a Manchester and inst. behind graduate, was just behind n. Mr Brown, who runs the Old Spot pub, began his walk a day after Miss Reader left Bondi Beach in Sydney, but caught up and passed her to complete the 2,761-mile

walk in 77 days.

Mr Brown's girifriend, Ju-lie England, who ran the Old Spot while he was away, said: "I spoke to him just after he finished and he was over the moon." His eventual target is to break the round-the-world

walking record of four years to cover 15,000 miles.

Miss Reader said she was amazed when she heard that another Briton was walking

"My first reaction was total stonishment that anyone could be stupid enough to attempt it, but I realised be jashing come salded disaste alife on Larth



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Sex expert Kinsey was a repressed homosexual'

FROM TUNKTI VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

ALFRED KINSEY, the earliest architect of the sexual revolution, was not the ascetic scientist many believed him to be, but was instead a "repressed homosexual" who had a hidden liberationist agenda", according to a book

in Alfred C. Kinsey: A Public/Private Life, James Jones, professor of history at the University of Houston, argues that Dr Kinsey, far from being a dispassionate scholar, was "a deeply troubled man" who wanted to create "an ethic of tolerance" toward a wide variety of human behaviour - including his own "homosexuality, bisecuality and interest in

extra-marital sex". Professor Jones contends that much of Dr Kinsey's work was motivated by a desire to loosen up America; and to make it a better place to live in for people like himself, and for

others with sexual doubts and to their svives. Most discondiscomfort.

in fact, the scientific jargon. the dense statistics and Kinsey's apparently dispassionate .
"samplings" may have been no more than an elaborate

Dr Kinsey's reputation rests on two studies which are credited with changing the way that America, hitherto puritanical, came to view its own sexual activity.

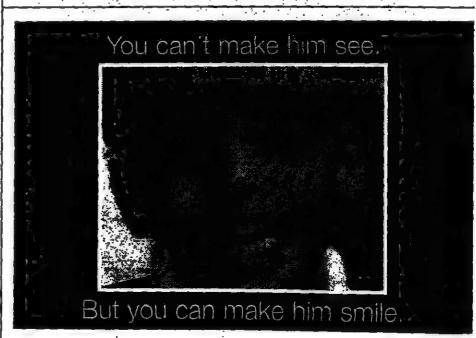
His Sexual Behaviour in the Human Male, published in 1948 and dubbed The Kinsey Report, and his Secual Behaviout in the Human Female, which was released five years later, shook Americans with their many and varied

The findings included the "fact" that almost all American men had me-marital sex and that more than half of all matried men were unfaithful

society then still steeped in what might be called the "John Wayne school" of maleness, was Dr Kinsey's assertion that more than a third of ence. But Americans tended to

believe him. Professor Jones reveals that. as a young man, Dr Kinsey's father haid not allowed him to smoke, drink or date women. The professor points out that Dr Kinsey's credibility rested on an elaborate public image. The path-breaking "sexologist" always took great pains to emphasise his background as an entomologist who used to study wasps, his "tweedy" side, his family, and his status as a middle-class American

☐ Alfred C. Kinsey: A Public/ Private Life, by James Jones, W. W. Norson, \$39.95.



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Gaullist urges end to Vichy guilt feelings



De Gaulle speaking at Bordeaux prefecture in October 1944 watched by Maurice Papon, next in line and looking towards camera. M Papon, a senior Vichy official in the city, is now accused of crimes against humanity.

THE leader of the French Gaullist party has con-demned the self-flagellation surrounding the trial of Maurice Papon, the accused col-laborator with the Nazis, claiming that de Gaulle himself had been put in the dock,

The Papon trial is serving as a pretent for a trial aimed against General de Caulle and Gaullism, and the trial of France itself." Philippe Se-guin, head of the Gaullist RPR party, said.

M. Savin insisted that the

M Seguin insisted that the atmosphere of soul-searching and historical reappraisal provoked by the trial of M Papon was "morbid" and unnecessary.
"Let us be proud to be

French. We do not need to between 1940 and 1944 ... our country's record was not immaculate, but we have nothing to be ashamed of," the RPR leader, whose father was killed during the liberation of France, said. M Séguin's remarks were

intended as a rebuke to Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the far-right National Front, who had attacked de Gaulle's M Seguin's insistence that wartime role in exile as founder of the Free French the crimes committed under Vichy should not be blamed

Ben Macintyre writes that Papon's

trial has provoked attacks on

France's mood of 'self-flagellation'

strongly reminiscent of the

himself, who declared Vichy

"mull and void".

view taken by de Gaulle

in recent weeks many

groups and professions have

come forward to apologise for

the actions of their predeces-

sors under Vichy, including

movement, noting: "It was on France as a whole is easier to be in the resistance in London than in Paris."

But M Séguin's comments were also a direct criticism of President Chirac, the founder of the RPR, who admitted French responsibility over the deportation of Jews during the war just a few months after he was elected. Relations bwteen M Chirac and M Séguin, who is a likely presi-dential candidate, are arctic.

M Papon, a former senior official in the Vichy regime, is accused of deporting hun-dreds of Jews to Nazi death camps, and his trial has prompted a wave of national introspection and recrimination, much of it directed at de Gaulie for promoting M Papon after the war and for attempting to gloss over the until the election of M Chirac.

M Papon yesterday

lawyers, police and doctors.

M Seguin said this had caused a "climate of collective guilt ... self-flagellation which some French people

the Roman Catholic Church.

are getting tired of. He accused historians of putting France on trial, by making her an accomplice to German abominations".

The RPR leader also suggested darkly that public opinion was being "manipulated" by using the Papon trial to denigrate both de Gaulle and the party founded in his name.

☐ Bordeaux: M Papon said yesterday that he never signed any arrest warrants for Jews to be sent off en route to Nazi death camps, and defied prosecutors to produce evidence that he did so.

"I cannot let it be said that I myself sent orders for transfer to the Drancy centre," he said. referring to the transit centre at Drancy, north of Paris, before being sent to Nazi

death camps.

When the time comes, I will ask for the evidence to be produced showing that I gave arrest orders," M Papon

'Crashing comet' heralded disaster for life on Earth

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

across the oceans 370 million years ago, heralding one of the

gered by the impact of a comet-more than half a mile wide, which gouged a 190 mile crater on the sea bed of what is now the state of Nevada, a meeting of the Geological-Society of America in Salt

Lake City was told yesterday. Dr Charles Sandberg, of the US Geological Survey, said that the comer ripped apart a reef on the continental shelf and carried chunks of it as

With Doctors John Warme, Mines, and Jared Morrow, of the University of Colorado, he .. has studied the impact. It occurred three million years before the Devonian entiretion — one of the five great extinctions marking the hist-ory of life on Earth. The species that vanished

largely ocean based. plants; and their disappearance has usually been attributed to an episode of global

WAVES LOOOR high swept cooling that killed many

warm-water species.
Among the hardest-hit were greatest disasters in the hist-ory of life. and or of the catactysm was trig-The catactysm was trig-marine invertebrates did not survive and many fish were

killed.
Dr Sandberg said that discoveries in other countries in recent years suggested there. had been numerous such impacts within a few million years, causing the climatic change that led to the Devon-

an entinction.
The idea that the mass entinctions were caused by impacts from outer space has grown in support in recent years, but there are still plenty

Antarctica say they have re-covered rock core samples will reveal climatic conditions dating back 30 to 100 million

Fifty-one scientists from 28 institutions around the world are analysing and describing the samples recovered by a drill team working at Cape. Roberts, 87 miles north of New Zealand's Scott Base on the edge of the Ross Sea. (AP)





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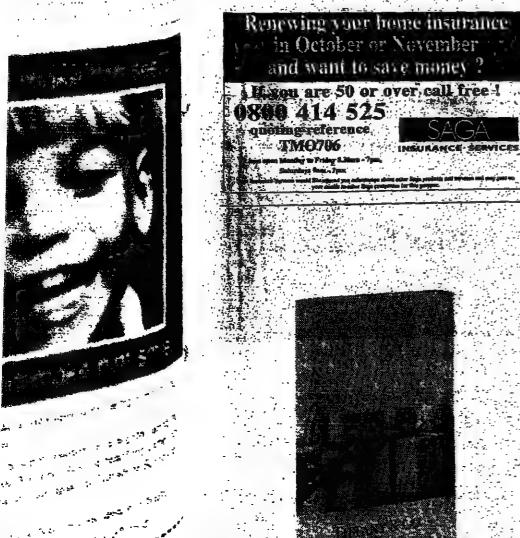
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'Having a baby should be treated not as an illness, but as part of life'

A pioneering scheme of care in pregnancy and childbirth is under threat. Nigella Lawson reports

his is the usual pat-tern of childbirth. For the first baby you've books, heard all the right things being said, been fired up with all the right intentions - you insist on a drug-free labour. It's not just that "naturai" sounds so much better who, full of the joys of incipi-ent motherhood, would beg for an unnatural childbirth? but that the agonising pain of labour is unknowable, unimaginable in advance.

With your second baby, you know better. As every gynae-cologist knows, as often as not the epidural is booked before the first tediously excruciating twinge dies down, well before the wolves start eating up your innards from within.

I differed. I had my first child in a 36-hour haze of "caesars" and slow, grinding pain, beautiful-ly blunted and brought to a happy conclusion by that won-derful thing, the mobile epidu-years. The latest rumours are ral. Afterwards, i wondered

how anyone ever had more than one child; though this, in truth, was probably more to do with the trauma of having a first baby than the shock of the hinh itself. But I did have a second

baby. And I had it - him differently: in hospital but with a midwife, without drugs and in an intense and wonderful atmosphere. This isn't a screed against doctors, by any means. But having a baby delivered by a midwife you know, who has assisted you throughout your pregnancy and will take care of you and the baby afterwards, is extraordinary. It isn't just about the labour, but about having a baby; there is a real difference. This is the scheme pioneered Oueen Charlotte's Hospital, in West London; a scheme now under threat of closure. Of course, Queen Char-lotte's itself — the country's

leading maternity hospital

years. The latest rumours are that it will be moved into the

by. All that is clear is that nothing is secure. But the 'one-to-one midwife scheme" has been such a significant success that it seems strange even to imply that closure could be on the cards. The health authority and the hospital trust both (for somewhat different reasons) seem keen to play down this threat. On the whole, though, theirs is a semantic defence: it has been a "pilot scheme", therefore the implication is not that it will be closed, but simply not "rolled out" - same difference.

The importance of the indeed the rest of the world. If

acheme is threefold. In the first instance, it is a huge improvement in maternity care, offering greater choice - that buzzword from the Eighties and more sensitive treatment. In the second, it shows a whole different approach to pregnan-cy and childbirth, treating it not as an illness but as an integrated part of life. And in the third, it continues the pioneering work of Queen Charlotte's, work that (like the mobile epidural which the hospital also introduced) is studied and learnt from across

the rest of the country and

the Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow Health Authority decides that this is a service not worth providing, it. sends out a clear negative elsewhere which have been monitoring the scheme, and There are obvious practical

sions of the scheme's success: have taken part feel much happier with the service they have received. They use expensive epidurals less, and stay in hospital for much shorter times on average, if at all.

These claims are supported

women who use them, although the health authority 'Usually the has recently contested many of epidural is them. I was having dirmer in a local booked restaurant when l had the first conbefore the back there having a celebratory lunch first twinge

Brono the next day. What is more I felt wonderful: giving birth with a woman you know, without drugs, which, al-though they take away pain, do make you feel somewhat remote and depressed afterwards, and in such an intiseems to me the best way to se the mother and child, and therefore the family, on the right footing for life. These are irreplaceably important hours, days. The difference a maternity service can make to them is incalculable.

But as I said, I do not disperage medical approaches to labour. What is important about the one-to-one scheme is that it comes out of such a leading maternity hospital. I knew that I had the back-up of, in my case, Mr Malvern and Professor Fisk if any problems presented themselves during pregnancy or labour. This is not some anti-scientific New approach to healthcare: it is a sensible route taken by a serious midwifery service which recognises that preg-nancy is not an illness, and that there are many ways to

manage a labour. It is important to stress this, because the myth of a midwife as a doctor-hating individual common one. But the strength of the Queen Charlotte's practice is that all methods are available. I wasn't rushed into These claims are supported having a drug-free childbirth, by the midwives and the but it felt, as the labour

progressed, like the most positive course to take. It felt like that because of the quality of care. And that just cannot be duplicated in a normal hospital routine. I never would have thought I would have wanted a drug-free labour dies down' in advance l couldn't have

known that. But it was made possible for me, and for that I am immensely. passionately grateful. It makes a life-altering difference, and we are talking about more than one life here. I feel this is the sort of maternity care everyone should be able to have I don't mean whether to go for the drugs or not, or the length of the labour (these are unknowables) but the whole attitude to, and treatment of,

pregnancy in general.

I had, medically speaking, excellent care when I had my daughter, the normal way at Queen Charlotte's, but nevertheless it is less satisfactory to see a different person each time you go for an antenatal check-up and to have a series of midwives and other personnel coming in and out, off and

be tolerated in any other healthcare department. Why should it seem acceptable for childbirth, for women? Money, of course, it's money. Those who wish to denigrate the scheme know the quickest way to silence its supporters is through finan-

on duty, for the labour. Of course it makes a difference:

and what is more it wouldn't.

cial argument. It just costs too much, they say. But the assess seem to disagree its findings are positive for the reasons mentioned above concerning use of drugs and take-up of beds. Obviously, such schemes cost a lot to set up. But the figures we are talking about do not seem - all things considered - very great. According to a spokesman for the Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust (which takes in Queen Charlotte's and Hammersmith hospitals) it would cost £250,000 to continue with the scheme as it is at present and an extra £300,000 to extend the scheme across the authority, and for all the women putatively in its care. Set against this the potential

and it doesn't seem like feckless extravagance. i suspect it is partly the name of the scheme that

savings - in drugs, mursing

hours, beds, doctors' visits -

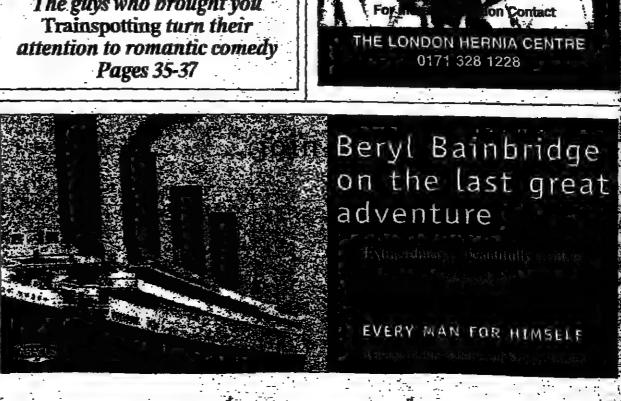
such improvidence; one-to-one seems to imply that there is a woman. In fact they work in pairs, for back-up (Jean Reid) Meg Belbin: both attended me and each midwife has

caseload of 40 women. he government paper on maternity vices. Changing in 1992, the need continuity of care and to focus on the community rather than the hospital. This is the esscheme: and it shows that it works. Well, we have a different Government now, but it's hard to see that it could have different priorities, in this respect at least. For surely, this is what new Labour is all about the modest shaping of attitudes within the community. When she was in Opposition, Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, seemed to confirm this, describing the scheme as "the best model of practice". Perhaps it's time for her to send a memo to that effect to remind health authorities that the words "new Labour" are not empty ones; that here more than anywhere else they mean what they say.



The guys who brought you Trainspotting turn their attention to romantic comedy Pages 35-37







Nigelia Lawson was having dinner in a local restaurant when she had the first contractions; she was back there having a celebratory lunch with hours old Bruno the next day.

As Buckingham Palace leaks news of the Duchess of York's plea for forgiveness, Jane Shilling suggests that silence is her best plan

too, wouldn't you? Imagine, there one is, just about to kick off one's shoes and sink on to the

sofa with a nice cup of tea and a plate of Duchy Original ginger snaps when in comes the footman. Bowing low, he offers one a silver salver. On it, a slightly grubby envelope - printed with a curious coat of arms, supported by Budgie the Little Helicopter and one of his chums - bearing, on a bend sinister, the words Duch WorldCorp Enterprises. Inc. The envelope is addressed to "Mum and Dad".

"God," begins the letter inside, without preamble, "I am just SO sorry. I don't know how I could have done it. I mean, it was just such a major, major boo-boo. I totally, totally take responsibility for that. But I was in a really hurting place then, and it was just so amazing after, well, it happened, just to be with you all and feel your pain,
"So, the thing is, I was with Oprah

the other day and she said, Honey, she's a Queen, but she's a woman too. She bleeds like you. Go to her, weep with her. Tell her about your shame and all your hurting. She's your kin, your hubbie's ma. She'll want you back home where you belong . . .

"I thought that was so humbling. (t just made me think that, it's, like, my duty to be back there, with you and Dad, and Andrew and the girls, and Anne and Margaret and all the gang. Mum, it's been a long, hard journey,

but I'm coming home ...

for Simmonds. "Ask the Captain of the Guard to come and see me, would you?", one asks, with every appearance of calm. "And bring me the telephone

number of the Editor of The Sun." Poor Fergie. Like Queen Caroline, she simply does not get it. She dashes about, alternately crying real tears on network TV and popping on her tiara to tout her fearful book at a tycoon's tacky ball. And then she turns up at the Palace gates in her Shift of Penitence to make A Public Act of Contrition - oh, and by the way, is it OK if she comes back indoors now? It is hard to imagine anything more exquisitely calculated to make the Royal Family forget their divisions and reform the House of Windsor into the kind of impregnable fortress that a Royal Family ought to be.

ord knows why, having turned her back on it, the Duchess should wish once again to penetrate that fortress - what with the insights into her past mistakes and present character that we all know (because she keeps telling us about them in Hello! magazine) she has so

painfully acquired. But if she really does want to go back, all she has to do is move into the Dower House at Southyork and remain there. silent and invisible, for the rest of her natural life. She may not speak to the newspapers; she may not appear on the telly with Ruby Wax; she may not write any more books - the nation's children may be inconsolable, but there must be

lell honestly, you'd probably desperate remedies. Lowering one's no more adventures of cheeky little ring up the Editor of The Sun, teacup to its saucer, one rings sharply Budgie. All commercial activity will cease. Offers to organise the festive panto at Balmoral will be declined.

On no account will there be any more Spiritual Journeys - bye-bye Madame Vasso and all the other dodgy gurus. There will be, in fact, no more exotic holidays. Val d'Isère, Marbella, the Canaries, the Caribbean — henceforth the Duchess will be a stranger to them. She will in future take her holidays (no more than ten days twice a year, to be accompanied by the children) at bracing English resorts. The Isle of Wight, for example, offers some lovely long walks, and little danger of bumping into regretable figures from one's past.

She will be decently clad, as befits a female royal, in an outfit incorporating the following: headscarf, stout hand-bag: sensible shoes, ruffle-neck blouse, puffa jacket, skirt (A-line, mid-calf, navy

She can forget all notions of Rehabili-tation Through Good Works — or photo-opportunities, as they are more commonly known. Never again will she be pictured handing out teddy bears to underprivileged Slavs. It is probably unnecessary to specify the other circumstances in which she will not be photographed. Her friends will be vetted by Sir Robert Fellowes, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Nicholan Scapper II the deep all this las Soames. If she does all this, beginning tomorrow, her reward may, perhaps, be some far-flung corner of the. Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore (just next to the compost heap and the coldwater tap), That Is Forever Fergie.



Comeback bid: but it would take a strict code of conduct to keep the Duchess of York from embarrassing the Royal Family



Kate Sekulese training at Gleason's gym in Brooklyn. "I love pushing myself to the limits"

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'I like hitting women

cularly attractive. With her long, feathery hair and hard clothes, she is the model of a certain kind of urban intellectual: cool, street smart, perhaps a little jaded. Born and brought up in London, she has spent the past five years in New York. Her conversation responds to the rhythm of the American vernacular. She has published fiction. She writes for The New Yorker and Harpers Bazaar and is working on a book of reportage. She could be Zoe Heller, Julie Burchill or any other worldly metropolitan

Except that she isn't. For at 36, when many women are thinking about the family they might never have. Sekulese is pursuing a career as a professional boxer. She trains daily at Gleason's in Brooklyn, the oldest and arguably most famous boxing gym in the world. Founded in 1937, it has been used by 113 world champions. including Muhammad All and Jake La Motta.

Gleason's is a tough, pun-ishing place to train. Sekulese relishes the discipline, the camaraderie and challenge, the relentless toil. "I love pushing myself to the limits. seeing what my body can do,

what I can achieve. Does she like hitting women? "Yes," she says, with-out pausing. "Any woman boxer who says otherwise is a liar. I don't wish to harm, but there's great liberation in the removal of this taboo."

Professional boxing may be becoming increasingly corrupt and de based, controlled by gangsters and ancers, but it is hard to fault the dignity and courage of many fighters. At its best, and this is what appeals to Sekulese boxing has a dark purity. It is about living on the edge

The charge I get from confronting what I most fear is hard to explain," she says. Yet, until a few years ago. women's boxing was little more than a freak show, a spectacle as grotesque as mud wrestling, adhering to the rules of the underground. "Foxy boxing", featuring topless women sparring in sleazy inner-city pubs, had a certain prurient popularity, but was a travesty of the real thing.

tion's cancellation of the first legal competitive bout between two teenage girls - Emma Brammer and Andrea Prime - showed the strength of opposition to women fighters here. Women are prevented from boxing professionally by the British Boxing Board of Control, something Jane Couch, the women's world welterweight champion, plans to challenge by taking the board to an industrial tribunal, alleging restraint of trade and sexual discrimination.

The dispute that preceded the Amateur Boxing Associa-

Sekulese is unhappy about hostility to her sport. In the US, she says, where women have been boxing in amaleur competitons since 1994, wornen's boxing is already established. A leading promotion is

Boxer Kate Sekulese believes the sport has a purity and a purpose. Interview by Jason Cowley

en's bout; Christy Martin, probably the most famous woman boxer, fought on the undercard of the Frank Bruno-Mike Tyson heavyweight contest in March last year. Sekulese accepts the danger

of boxing, but disputes whether women are at greater risk, their breasts, than men. "Just as men have to wear boxes to protect their genitals, so we wear padded breast guards. These cyber-bras are effective, but bloody uncomfortable." A keen softball player and

fitness obsessive, she became interested in boxing after being introduced to the moves of the sport at aerobics classes: skipping, shadow dancing, light sparring. One afternoon, and she was thrilled by what she found: four rings held together with gaffer tape, the stench of sweat and mildew in the air, the thwack of gloves on punchbags, the panting and heaving of fighters. "It was a real fight gym. I was hooked."

Soon she was training regularly at Gleason's, honing her technique, developing her strength. Her then boyfriend was astounded by the transformation in her body. "He put me on a pedestal, develop-ing this erotic obsession with my strength," she says, "He was used to being the strong one and didn't really understand what I was doing, or

why. He found my increasing physical 'I could tell strength disturbing and exciting. In the end, I think it bothby his face ered him that be He was surely bothered. too. when Kate threw a fierce punch at power blew deliberately landing it less than him away' an inch from his face, "I could tell by

his expression that

that my

potential

my potential power blew him away." They split up. Sekulese grew up in Hol-land Park, West London, the daughter, she says, of "typically sophisticated middle-class metropolitan parents". Her father, an Austrian Jewish émigré, was a journalist. He died just before Kate went to Manchester University to read English and drama. There she sang in a punk band, never graduating. "I did the rock'n'roll thing and perhaps

he eventually completed her degree as a mature student at the then Middlesex Polytechnic, and began working as a freelance journalist. She moved to New York after becoming weary of the "competitiveness, paranoia and relentless ambition" of the "London media scene".

Her German mother, Marianne, disapproves of boxing. "I was horrified when Kate told me she was going to box," she says, with heavily accent-ed English. "I never thought she would actually fight professionally. I hate boxing: 1 don't consider something that involves knocking someone



She describes her daughter as a maverick, by way of explanation for her unconvenalways been different, doing things that others wouldn't dare. When I told her what I thought of boxing, she said 'Yes, but you used to lence'. Which is true; but fencing, full. of skill and elegance, is a sport in the way that boxing isn't. One hears of too many boxers dying. Kate is a writer, her

brain is her bread and butter.

I'm airaid that she might not.

only ruin her beautiful face, but also damage her brain." Marianne's concern for her daughter is genuinely moving. For there is surely something reckless, something deliber-ately self-destructive, in Kate's ss search for what she calls "sensation". And her mother is right to comment on her beauty; but perhaps it is a spoilt beauty. On first meeting her you think this woman is unmarked. But the hard lighting of a Soho bar slowly reveals what boxing has done. to her face there is minor swelling around her cheeks and a slight thickening of scar tissue above her brows. The pulled into a fist and held out

Her first professional bout a ludicrous mismatch with a much heavier, taller fighter. demonstrated the idiosyncracy and shortage of fighters in the women's division. She lost narrowly on points, but did break her opponent's nose. (Her own nose remains resolutely unbroken.) She hopes

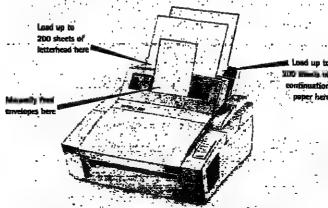
Sekulese about boxing? As with many women lighters, she came late to her sport. At 36, she senses that her career might already be entering its twilight, especially if young women from the ghettos fol-

Bruce Silvergiane, who owns Gleak son's has seen her fight. "Kate is a won-dedicated ruce Silverglade. derfully balanced, dedicated fighter and a fine athlete, But she has entered the sport at a time when there is not much money about. In a couple of years things might be

By then it will probably be what Thomas Hauser, in The Black Light, his book about the New York fight scene, calls a strange world that few outsiders see and even fewer understand, a dark world that takes what's most savage in man and pushes it centre stage against a backdrop of exploitation and pain".

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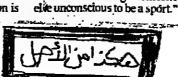
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And for this farce, many thanks

Anatole Kaletsky looks on the

bright side of a financial debacle

That delicious irony.
The Government. manipulating the media and turned the ruthless control of all political "messages" into a sort of religion, has inflicted upon itself the worst and most unnecessary media fiasco since Margaret Thatcher's bi-zarre Westland crisis. It seems that Perer

Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, was so busy threatening junior backbenchers who dared to express a view about the Millennium Dome or the Prime Minister's holiday arrangements, that he completely forgot about the minor matter of European

monetary union, Was this oversight just a matter of incompetence? Or was it perhaps attributable to Mr Mandelson's genuine provictions which may have been so strong that the Government was unable to devise a coher-ent message in which it believed. Either way, the upshot has been a highly entertaining farce for journalists and other political junkies. For the City, the Government and, perhaps, the country this debacle has been rather more serious than

The most obvious costs have been borne by the business-men and dealers who sold sterling in the past three weeks in response to the series of Financial Times stories which claimed that the Government was "moving towards" an early decision to join EMU. Their guilibility has been pun-ished by multimillion-pound

Another casualty will be the Treasury's credibility in financial markets and therefore its ability to influence the level of the pound. Rightly or wrongly, many investors believe that the now-repudiated Financial Times story was leaked in order to manipulate the pound downwards. In future, invesabout falling for "scoops" of this kind. More seriously, the Government has now been powerful reserve weapon against currency speculators. This was the possibility, however remote, that Britain might unexpectedly join EMU or the ERM at an exchange rate which exposed speculators to sudden losses.

Now that Gordon Brown has ruled out EMU membership for the rest of the Parliament, this ultimate deterrent is no longer available. International investors can buy (or sell) sterling without fear of political ambush. In the short term, at least, the Treasury's unilateral disarmament could cause a further unwelcome hardening of the pound, as suggested in the article on this

page by John Monks.
The Government's political losses are equally clear. It was to keep Britain out of EMU until 2002. But like any prag-matic politician, he would have preferred to keep his options open. The people responsible for planting and then promoting the FT story made this impossible. Their intention was to soften up the media, the public and the financial markets for a dramatic pro-EMU announce-

ment. They may even have been trying to build up enough political momentum to bounce the Prime Minister into a decision he would otherwise reject. Now this bungled manipulation has achieved exact ly the opposite result. Instead of trapping Mr Blair into an endorsement of EMU, the over-zealous Europhiles have forced him to stake out a policy position more sceptical than John Major was ever prepared

This brings us to the really important issue. What costs will the debacle inflict on the nation? To judge by the her-rage of criticisms from Euroenthusiasts in the business community. Mr Blair's decision could consign Britain to Third World status. In reality. however, the news is not at all marginally better off if the Treasury had retained the tactical threat of EMU membership as a trump card in its game of bluff with financial markets. Keeping options open might also have smoothed relations with Bonn. Paris and Brussels, where diplomats and officials are still in a state of shocked denial. blankly refusing to believe that Gordon Brown could really have said what he did over the weekend. But these tactical benefits of fudging the EMU issue would have been

confusion, financial uncertainty and practical business risks. Britain will lose nothing of substance by being excluded from the initial deliberations on EMU, since all the important decisions have already been taken about the structure of the European central bank, the conduct of monetary policy

more than offset in the long

term by the attendant political

and so on. The Government, mean-while, will be forced to set a clear agenda for its policy in Europe. The main objectives of Britain's European policy maintenance of open markets. the dismantling of trade barriers and the equal treatment for outside the single currency

When faced with 11 EMU countries "informally" co-ordi-nating their economic policies and then voting as a bloc, even the most starry-eyed federalists will realise that the only way to achieve British objectives will be to preserve the veto on all decisions relating to tax policy, social security and

uch a tough British approach will not preclude membership of the single currency in the long run. A general election victory for Labour in the spring of 2001, followed by a summer referen-dum on EMU, could still pave the way for Britain to join in July 2002, when the euro is supposed to become Europe's sole legal tender. For the next five years, however, business-es will be able work in a stable environment, financial marfundamentals instead of rumours, and British citizens will know what their Government's policy is on Europe. gling spin-doctors deserve a vote of thanks.



League tables should be simple measures

of competence — so let us rescue pupils

from educational mass production

nations a new, superstitious aura of high importance. Even after A level most universities are too busy or too idle to interview, and rely wholly on grades: more than ever before in the history of British education, what you score matters more than what you

know or what you are. Hence an epidemic of seediness. We have had more, and more aggressive, appeals against bad marking this year than ever before. Meanwhile this week a teachers' journal sends out a guide ranking the various examination boards according to the difficulty of getting high

grades in each subteachers to shop around the four examining boards for the easiest "hits", in the hope of improving their school's status. Other husiness practices encour-

aged by league-table fetishism are also rife. Competitive schools prevent children who are likely D grades or below from being entered for certain subjects, so that they do not mar the school figures. And don't write pompous letters saying this never happens: it does. Last time I mentioned it in print (apropos A levels and "culling" of the lower sixth) I was detuged with examples at all levels. Never mind that your child wants to give it a try and can face failure: the school, these

Even primary education is being tainted by this culture. A teacher in Dulwich is claiming at an industrial tribugal that she was sacked because opening a government reading test and coaching ten-year-olds for it. She may or may not be right, but certainly test hysteria has unhinged plenty of people who should know better. In a shameful interlude of the late 1980s, the Education Department released to the press the titles of recommended reading books before letting schools have them. Platoons of pushy parents snapped up every copy immediately, so that small country

schools ruch as ours were left unable to get teaching copies: I was dis-patched to London to scour the bookshops. None of this had anything to do with literacy or the job of enthusing small children about

has less and less to do with appreciat ing individuality and fanning sparks. It is all very well for the Government to put out soupy recruiting posters about how "nobody ever forgets a good teacher", but out there in the real world (a Tory-built world which Labour shows no sign of

ments are described as "line managers" and teachers treated as mere shelfstackers "delivering

the national curriculum.

Granted, education needed to be reformed in the

mid-Seventies. Great numbers of children were being short-changed because the quality of schools was uneven. Not universally bad, please note: uneven. HM Inspectors had been pointing to the problem schools for a long time, but nobody in government ever listened to them (this, I admit, was the disadvantage of that golden age before exam results got pointcally glamorous). It should have been possible to target the bad achools and leave the good ones their freedom, their idiosyncratic cultures and slow-grown wisdom. But the shrill, inept, bectoring way that reform was undertaken has led us to a gloomy pass. We are now stuck with a boring, neurotic, mechanistic approach to education; and the awful thing is that as usual, those with least money bear the brunt of it.

Look at what happened last week, Ampleforth College, the Roman: Catholic independent boarding school, airily announced that it will no longer bother with GCSE English literature because pupils and teachers alike are bored with the way that Great Expectations, Animal Farm and Macheth grind round year after

• SINCE the Diary rather blen the career of David Clark, Chan-cellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, into the afterlife by detailing his foreign jaunts, he has launched an inquiry to find the mole. He has

also been keeping an unusually low profile. He was to appear on

On the Record this weekend, but

an the Record this weekend, put pulled out suddenly, leaving the BBC with the delightful trut small presence of the junior minister, Peter Kilfoyle, Clark's excust? A perforated eardrum, And that was

before John Humphrys had float-

ed a few questions past him.

year with few other texts of any substance. So they have started their own Eng Lit Certificate, bringing in Chaucer, Swift and Fielding, Blake and Coleridge and Dylan Thomas. An outside examiner comments that the first year of this showed work of A-level standard. Miffed, the exam boards defend their corner; other top schools roll up their eyes piously and claim that their pupils already read far more widely than the set books, so there is no need to loosen their feverish grip on the security blanket

But there is something appealingly cheeky about what Ampleforth has done. In a small, symbolic way it has put care for culture above nervous conformity. It has indicated to its pupils that wide understanding is more important than narrow marking, and borne witness - in its arrogantly maverick upper-caste RC way - to a neglected truth. It reminds us that government tests are rough indicator. Education is more. Employers want more. Adult life,

requires more. That is not an elitist public school. truth: it is a universal one. No school, even the most beleaguered comprehensive, should be reduced to teaching only with an eye on exam results. Every pupil in the country deserves teachers who offer glimpses of a wider, richer view — of history. science, English, whatever. Every child needs to be taught to explore and enjoy as well as prepare and revise. In really good schools, exams are almost an interruption of the real business of learning.

ut it is being made harder and harder for State schools, that is to say for the overwhelming majority, to put learning before grades and let young intellects breathe. An independent headmistress I know is foud of decreeing that no girl should sit more than eight GCSEs, but must take two or three other subjects during those years just for pleasure. Most heads prefer to berd their brighter pupils through ten or even 12 subjects, just

for the glory.

Ampleforth may haughtily discard the standard measure of Eng Lit approved by UK pic and set its pupils free in the wider garden of literature. Bog Lane Comprehensive has no such option, even though its pupils and its best teachers may have precisely the same yearnings. Is this

You still have time, Mr Brown

John Monks urges

a firm commitment

to join EMU

hat the country needed was a great debate about EMU. What it has got is a chaotic post-mortem into which government source said what, when and to whom. The results have been predictable, with instability in the markets, upward pressure on the pound and jobs at risk

Whether or not we join the European Monetary System, and when we do so, is clearly the most difficult decision this Government faces. Of course, putting off tough decisions is always attractive. This one will doubtless win praise from the Eurosceptic press. But this is one issue that is too important and too historic for even the most mediaconscious Government to take on the basis of tomorrow's headlines.

The latest steer is that the Government will rule out membership of EMU until after the next election. This would be a grave error. It would hit jobs and investment in the short term. It risks ending the new Govern-ment's bid to play a leadership role in Europe. In the longer term it would

repeat the dismal pattern of our involvement in Europe.

Ruling out EMU membership until after the election will directly hit jobs. First, Britain's uncertain position will deter investment in the ition will deter investment in the British economy. New inward investors will be put off and existing players likely to look more favourably on other countries for expansion. Toyota made this point

locate its new plant in France. --Secondly, we are likely to repeat the experience of the summer, when the pound hit stratospheric levels well in excess of the unsustainable rate at which we joined the exchange rate mechanism. Being a refuge for the world's hot money would be no compensation for an exchange rate that systematically undermines every manufacturing and exporting com-

pany across the country. There are real practical obstacles to very early entry, not least because much of Britain is not ready to join on day one owing to the wait and see policy. This is well understood both in business and across Europe.

But it is also the case that erecting false barriers to entry helps no one. It is simply not the case that tax bills ave to go up by £20 billion if Britain were to join. This is a figure that seems as plucked from the air as figures made up to scare people about joining the social chapter or agreeing a sensible minimum wage.

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Nor is it the case that the UK's economic cycle will ever be exactly in step with that of our European partners. Demanding that fortuitous set of circumstances is not far from saying never to EMU membership. In any case, the comparisons made between our economies are often illinformed. For example, we are often told that our interest rates are out of kilter. Yes, there is a differential, but like is rarely compared with like. In Britain, our short-term interest rates determine long-term commitment such as mortgages and business borrowing. In Germany long-term rates are precisely that and are closer to our rates than the short-term figures normally compared. Longterm interest rates for France, Germany and the UK are all within the 6 to 7 per cent range.

There are, however, two conditions that any Government would surely want before taking the decision to join. First, they would want a weak Opposition, a big majority in Parliament and big approval ratings in the polls. Secondly, they would want a strong economy, able to respond to the more favourable circumstances that the clear stand would bring. If we add the extra bonus of having deliberately warned voters of the need for tough decisions, it seems to me that this Government could not ask to be in a better position.

Nor should the Government be irightened of public opinion. The polls may show opposition to emotive statements such as "giving up the pound", but as Bob Tyrell, of the Henley Centre, is reported to have told William Hague's Shadow Cabinet, this is a very shallow view.

Concerted campaigning by the Government, business and unions for a yes" vote în a referendum would

almost certainly turn this round. Ruling out early membership would cause real difficulties for the Conservative Party. Labour's ambition to win the next election is wholly admirable, but it is hardly taking your eye off the electoral ball to realise that the Tories have enough difficulties of their own. Indeed, making the Government's position pretty close to the feeble "not in the oreseeable future" line taken by Mr Hague and Mr Lilley will allow them to brush their vicious divisions under a Government-provided carpet.

I am a friend of this Government. I desperately want it to succeed. My loyalty will be there when the going gets tough. But sometimes friends nave to give candid advice.

The Chancellor is, we learn, to make a statement to Parliament when it returns. He still has time to reaffirm the Government's commitment to a single currency and setting out the process and timetable by which Britain can join.

The author is General Secretary of

Wedding blues

WHILE the cheap prints were much exercised by Baroness Thatcher's anger with William Hague for sharing rooms with his fiancee at the Blackpool conference, the former Prime Minister was actually cross with the new Tory leader for an altogether more serious crime political naivety. Lady Thatcher, I under-

stand, believes that Hague missed a trick by failing to marry Flion Jenkins on the eve of the conference. This has little to do with family values and much to do with positive publicity.

She recently confided in an old

friend - a senior Tory - that Hague could have bolstered the party's flagging morale (and, per-haps, its morality) by bringing the wedding forward.

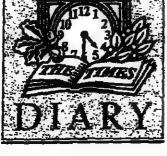
"It would have sent the right message to the party and to the country at the right time." she is reputed to have said. "Timing is everything in politics and William knows my feelings about family values." Yes, indeed. Perhaps those erstwhile Thatcherites who have suddenly found modern morality to be so seductive, should watch out.

Dig this

CAN you imagine a more demanding job? Head gardener to the work damned hard.)

work damned hard.)

It is rare for such jobs to be admillion — young Wimborne, 30, wertised, but Prince Charles is



Prince of Wales. Thumbing through Horticulture Week, I have stumbled across a notice from Highgrove, requesting a toiler with substantial experience in maintaining and developing the garden and parkland to the highest standard, using organic methods".

Candidates are expected to have a flexible and positive approach to the complexities of a developing garden". (Er, he is going to have to

thought to get irritated with Highgrove helpers who do not share his herbaceous ambitions. "He always wants to be the head gardener himself," as one wilting poppy puts it. So who is the current occupant of the post? "There isn't one, as such," says St James's Pal-

The great thing about 1966 as far as I can remember -

is that if you were taking your O levels, nobody but

rwspaper headlines did not

terrors all right, but they

your parents and teachers was the

shriek about them, politicians made

no speeches about them. Exams held

belonged to your own inky, underage subculture: you did your papers,

got your certificate and if all was well

you promptly lost it. Well or ill, the

By the time the scroll with the curly

writing turned up you were either on

your way to A levels, or at work. Your

ordeal faded in the light of common

day. You were not - as children are

today - the uncomfortable focus of

Thirty years on, the humble 15-plus

exam gets more publicity than Edwi-na Currie and EMU rolled into one.

newspapers, you would think GCSE had recruited Max Clifford: if it were

a woman, it would be a minx in a

gold minidress schmoozing with

Tara Palmer-Tomkinson on the pa-

parazzi party circuit. Drunk on the

oxygen of publicity, it never passes a

day without being invoked, attacked,

defended, or involved in scandals.

What should be a modest measure of

basic competence, one of many

indicators of how education works,

There are two explanations for this.

One is the growth, under successive

heedless or incompetent administra-

tions, of mass youth unemployment. Having a certificate takes on a whole

new innortance if it is the

only recognition you are likely to get

of your talent and willingness to

The other reason for the cult of

certificate-worship is more recent: the

decision to judge all schools by one

standard only, the A-C grades they pile up at GCSE, and the A levels two

years later. The accuracy and useful-

ness of this yardstick was illustrated

nicely at the weekend by the story of

the school in Southport which shows

up in tables as having a substandard

GCSE pass rate, even though it in fact scores above average - because the figures count only children taking

the exam at 15, and a number at this

school do them early because they are

bright, or late because they have

learning difficulties.

Together, league tables and fear of

unemployment have given all exami-

has become a national fetish.

acrimonious national

assumption was that life went on.

slightest bit interested.

ace. "Everyone mucks in together."
Not quite. "David Magson has been in control of the gardens for eight years," says Rosemary Verey. one of the Prince's horticultural consultants. "He is a talented, dedicated and able gardener, who has worked extremely well. I have not been told why someone else is being brought in." Nothing, I am sure, to do with having such a challenging boss ...

Home run

TWENTY years after his father packed the soup tureens and sold the family stately to a receiving company, Viscount Wimborne, an occasional record-producer, has bought it back again.

Ashby St Ledgers, a 17th-century pile in the rather less smart part of Dorset, was home to five genera-tions of Wimbornes before the last viscount sold up to drift between Paris and New York. When he died

"He lived there as a child and thought it was time to come home," says an associate, "He's very happy there but it's rather uncornfortable - there are no beds and the walls aren't very stable." When he has ordered in a few four-posters. Wimborne will have ample space to entertain. The house comes complete with three reception rooms, 30 bedrooms, a gatehouse and 32 acres of garden designed by Lutyens. Here is material for a sequel to A Dance to the Music of Time - subtitled The Ar-



because it's hard to tell if

Komanı roles WHAT links Vita Sackville-West and Eric Cantona? Both, apparently, are Gypsies. As bands of nomadic types flood into an unwelcoming Dover, the Romani institute is producing a calendar of role models. Yul Brynner, Charlie Chaplin, Ava Gardner and, improbably, Sackville-West, are claimed as "known Gypsies", while those with "rumoured Romani connections" include Pi-

casso, Cervantes and Presley.

This is our way of reminding: people that Gypsies have been a key part of European culture for more than a thousand years," 5805" Amanda Sebestyen, a big gold bangle in the movement. "Look at



Romanies? Cantona and Vita

Chaplin's distinctive ballet-nime style. That was very gypsyish. What about contemporary Ro-manies? Well, Bob Hoskins, David Essex and Eric Cantona are all known to have Gypsy blood." Cantona was once seen doing a flamenco with the Gypsy Kings, but Ms Sebestyen insists her evidence is stronger. "It is hard to prove. People rarely say they are from Romany stock. Victoria Glendinning. Sackville West's biographer, is sceptical. She used to play with the language as a game, but there is no hint of Gypsy blood. She was an aristocrat, although she did have a Spanish grandmother." Well, there you go ...

JASPER GERARD | the TUC.

You still have times Mr Brown

THE TIMES

THE ASYLUM TRAP

How EU law has made nonsense of Britain's frontier controls

Great though the strain their arrival has put on Dover's limited emergency accommodation and schools, the sudden influx of Romanies from the Czech Republic and Slo vakia is only a small part of a larger problem. What is really at issue here is not the plight of these particular asylumseekers, who come from countries where Gypsies certainly suffer from discrimination but which are not otherwise tyrannies. It is the appalling mess which the European Union has made of asylum policy.
The EU's Dublin Convention, which was

negotiated in 1990 and entered into force on September 1, was intended to bring order to the chaos of EU immigration and asylum procedures. It has done the opposite.

Under the old system, the European Union state in which applicants for asylum first arrived were the countries of "first" asylum" within the meaning of the UN refugee convention; and the country in which immigrants first resided, legally or illegally, was liable to accept them back if they then applied for asylum in another EU. state. That also applied to visa-free entry, which Britain and other EU countries now grant to Central Europeans. This was the basis on which the 1996 Asylum and Immigration Act was drawn up, even after the previous Government had signed a convention that it clearly should have blocked.

Now, however, the first "safe country" is deemed to be not the first EU country they reach, but the EU country in which they first apply for asylum. A central roster now records asylum applications, to prevent asylum-seekers moving to another EU country if their first applications are refused. But even then, if Britain receives a "duplicate" asylum application, all it can do is request the EU country where asylum was first sought to take them back. What happens if that country refuses is unclear.

The effect of this curningly drafted convention is to enable states, such as Germany and Austria, whose frontiers march with Eastern and Central Europe, to let migrants as well as refugees through the net without fear of being held liable. This . system is wide open to abuse. It makes it easy for would-be refugees to target the country most likely to take them in, or whose processing procedures are so slow that they can at least reckon on a prolonged stay.

The EU's "external" frontiers are its main line of defence, because most frontier controls in the EU have been abolished under the Schengen treaty, to which Britain is not a party. Even where there are checks, immigration officers are evidently "waving through" cars and coachloads from Central Europe en route to Britain, knowing that they cannot be held liable to take them back. So, clearly and more seriously, do immigration officers in Austria and Germany, where the Czechs and Slovaks entered the EU.

Britain's own frontier controls still work reasonably well at airports. Asylum seekers and would-be immigrants know that if they arrive by air, they risk being put straight back on a flight out, particularly if they come from countries on Britain's "white list", where human rights are deemed to be adequately respected. If their papers are not in order, airlines may be subject to fines and required to pay for their repatriation:

More and more asylum-seekers - one out of nine - are therefore crossing Europe to arrive by sea. Ferry operators, unlike airlines, are not held legally liable for having accepted them as passengers. And if they arrive from another European Union country. Britain cannot put them on a return boat because the continental Channel port authorities, France and Belgium, have no obligation to accept them.

This means that if they apply for asylum at British seaports, they are almost bound to be admitted while their cases are processed. And it is widely known among would-be immigrants, as well as genuine refugees, that with a backlog of 53,000 applicants waiting for their cases to be heard here, they will stay for months if not years.

The only option for the Government is to return imsuccessful applicants to their own countries - as it should in the case of the Czech Republic and Slovakia, but cannot always safely do. Britain has no hope of renegotiating a convention tailor-made for Germany and Austria. It can and must cut the delays in handling asylum cases that make Britain a destination of choice.

QUADRANGLES AND QUOTAS

Oxbridge should be examined on applications not admissions

It is not a quota nor a target but it might be an ambition or an aspiration. With the aid of in recent years, but much more should be this rigorous analysis, Cambridge Univer- done to persuade talented state school sity has signalled its intention of increasing ... students to come forward. That in turn by a third the number of students it accepts howould require close co-operation between from the state sector. The suggestion that the colleges and the university. The best This might be linked to the impending decis ion on the future of the college fee has been indignantly disavowed by the dons concerned. Nonetheless, the smell of politics is clear. The Cambridge initiative would probably be welcomed by David Bhinkett. who seems inclined to retain present funding arrangements in return for a dramatic programme to increase state-school admissions. It would not, however, satisfy Baroness Blackstone, the Minister for Higher Education, who seems determined to do to Oxbridge what Henry VIII did to the monasteries — only more thoroughly.

Cambridge should be cautious about any numerical promises. Its adopted figure of 65 per cent for state school admissions reflectsthe sector's proportion of all students achieving three A grades at A levels. These numbers do not, as it happens, identify those whose performance at A level exceeds this. impressive standard. Moreover, among the "state" students are counted those from grammar schools, not a category that the Government believes is currently underrepresented at Oxford or Cambridge. The statistics also treat as "independent" those who studied within the state sector until the age of 16 but then successfully sought a sixthform scholarship at a fee-paying establishment. These numbers should not by

themselves shape an admissions strategy. The real issue is not admissions but applications. If able students from state schools do not fill in the relevant forms then neither university can accept them. Efforts have been made by both Oxford and Cambridge bractice of some colleges should be emulated by others. If that happened, merit alone would swiftly force up the proportion of state school entrants. Without such a shift, a quasi-quota system will devalue excellence.

The admissions issue reflects the wider question confronting the ancient universities. The extreme decentralisation that has historically characterised Oxford and Cambridge does not fit well with a world of mass higher education. The existing "decisionmaking process" based on a complex maze of committees requires drastic reform so that it is capable of making decisions. The drive for openness should be concerned with rather more than the courting of comprehensives. Cambridge is moving in this direction. The North Commission will soon offer Oxford its opportunity. Oxbridge needs change as much as it needs college fee income.

Other attitudes also need alteration Oxford and Cambridge have found their current campaigns frustrated in certain state schools. The old slogans of elitism and exclusion are still a significant impediment. This hostility remains the biggest barrier to broader access. Oxbridge cannot be expected to overcome it alone. It does not help matters that the Minister for Higher Education often appears to sympathise with the cynics and sceptics. The Government is entitled to ask Oxford and Cambridge to modernise if they want to maintain exceptional funding. The Prime Minister might contemplate whether his present team at the Department for Education helps or hinders that process.

WELCOME WANDER WARBLERS

Now watch the birdie on the suburban clothesline

The twitchers were twitching from head to foot on Sunday as they flocked down to Dorset. A Siberian rubythroat had been reported near the Smugglers inn, three miles outside Weymouth. This little bird, like a jewelled robin, was something rarer to them than the most precious contraband ever handled in the inn. Only one member of this Asiatic species had been recorded in Britain, and that was on Fair Isle 25 years ago. This was the first chance for most of the twitchers to get a UK "tick" of it.

Latecomers arriving at dawn yesterday were not so lucky. The bird had flown - as they do. It had not proved very "twitchable", to use the current birdwatching jargon. That is to say, it had not hopped about cooperatively, so that everybody who wanted

could get a good sighting of it. Never fear. There are other rare or uncommon birds turning up in Britain this month, most of them, like the rubythroat, from Siberia or from Eastern Europe. Many of them are small warblers, such as the tiny yellow-browed warbler, which looks like a willow warbler with golden eyebrows. In the placid weather of the past few weeks they - in the garden on the clothesline.

have drifted westwards, when they thought they were migrating to their winter quarters in the Middle East or southern Asia. . Most of them have been seen in nature

reserves, or on headlands and islands where birdwatchers regularly gather. They are seen especially often in nature reserve car parks, by omithologists eating their sandwiches. In this, they illustrate the unromantic truth that ornithological records indicate the behaviour of birdwatchers rather than birds. One American researcher was amazed to discover that most spring migrants arrived in the United States on a Saturday or Sunday. Another, more jaundiced, defined a rare bird as any type that could not be seen from a freeway

Many supposedly rare birds are simply unreported birds. For every uncommon bird that is spotted in a pub carpark full of twitchers, there must have been many more brought in on the favourable winds. So let the part-time birdwatcher look out. He or she may not need to thumb a lift on a helicopter to the Scillies to see a rosecoloured starling. There may be one sitting

Ins and outs of

EMU promises From Mr Andrew Cruickshank

Sir, I fear your leader today ("Ins and outs') gives Messes Blair and Brown foo much credit for their current stance on EMU. No amount of "spinning" can disguise the real reason for their Damascene conversion -- or, in Mr Blair's case, reconversion.

In its "say anything to get elected" campaign the Labour Party promised a referendum if the Cabinet and Parliament voted for the abolition of sterling. This promise, of course, only holds good until the next general elec-tion. In reality, Tuny Blair is no more prepared to let the British people de-cide this issue than was John Major to obtain their consent to the transfer of their sovereignty implicit in his be-loved Maastricht treaty.

This is the only reason why entry into EMU is ruled out for the duration majority, the pound sterling, repre-senting Britain's economic and ulti-

Sir, Gordon Brown's "expected" decision to rule out British participation in the single currency "for the lifetime of this Parliament" (report, October 18) would be regrettable, as was your predictably rapturous welcome of it in advance (leading article, same day). What, save for little Englanders, is there in it?

Late entry into the ERM (exchangerate mechanism), EMU's stalwart forerunner, earned us the inflationary Lawson boom and its recessionary aftermath, both of which earlier entry, as wished by the then Chancellor and others, could have pre-empted. Deliberate aloofness following the tragedy of Black Wednesday then lost London (and won Frankfurt) the privilege and perks of hosting the future European rentral bank.

Needlessly foreclosing, if again only for a limited period, the EMU option now, even if it didn't actually harm us (eg, by nobbling our preparedness for the indefinitely delayed plunge), could only further benefit others at our

Recognition of the formidable difficulties of the EMU project should not, once more, be made to tie our hands and jeet while others, who would be quite content to see us join in the first wave, gain another head start.

WALTER GREY, 12 Arden Road, Finchley, N3. October 19.

From Mr Roger Everest

Sir. John Redwood's argument against joining the single currency ("No such thing as free euro", October lb) is that it would leave us subject to wild swings on the exchanges imo dollars and yen". Yet his policy would give an isolated Britain the added problem of swings of exchange into the currency of our principal market, allowing Germany an undestrable advantage over us.

The enormous cost of joining the single currency - conversion of cash machines and measures to control increased money in circulation - is worth it if we stay abreast or ahead of

Mr Redwood is right to condemn the Government's failure to make clear its intentions for this Parliament. I would like the electors of Beckenham (Mr Piers Merchant's seat) and Winchester (Mr Mark Oaten's) to send a clear message to the Cabinet and the country to get on with entry to the euro immediately.

Yours faithfully, ROGER EVEREST.

From Mr Ronald Forrest

Sir, The claim in your October 18 leader that Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have shown maturity and flexibility in their assumed decision not to join EMU in the lifetime of the present Parliament is highly questionable. Might they not have been motivated by their desire to win a second term?

Their focus groups must surely have been telling them that the likelihood of winning a referendum on the single currency was remote, and a defeat would have boded ill for their chances of remaining in power after

Yours faithfully. RONALD FORREST. Delfryn, Castle Morris,

Sir, At the flick of a switch by Gordon be cleared instantaneously?

Yours faithfully, P. M. CATTO. 14 Hyde Park Gardens, W2.

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From the Vice-Chancellor of the University of East London

by many departments around the

country which operate on much larger

tutorial/seminar sizes, shows that

such a system is neither a necessary

condition of excellence nor value for

ther by distributing the £35 million among the other £03 universities or —

my preference -- using it as bursaries

and scholarships to encourage stu-

dents from lower-income groups to

enter higher education. Larger num-

bers of students from lower-income

backgrounds would clearly produce

greater social benefits than the cur-

rent regressive transfer which goes to

students from largely higher-income groups who would in any case have

The second test is one of equity. It is

current policy for funding councils to

move towards a system whereby the

amount of grant going to each institu-tion is equal for all students studying

a particular subject. The additional

funding per Oxbridge student being made in college fees is clearly in direct

The case for a retention of Oxbridge

college fees fails on both counts. Ima-

gine a well established, high prestige

school asking the Government for

greater funding per pupil than its less well established and less prestigious

neighbours in order that it might

maintain its superior position.

conflict with this equity criterion.

gone to university.

Better value would be achieved ei-

Sir, The campaign by the Vice-Chan-cellors of Oxford and Cambridge, and their supporters, to prevent the abolition of college fees (an additional £2,000 per Oxbridge student compared with students at other universities) is understandable treport, October 8; leading article October 9; letters, Octo-

ber 13). Individuals and organisations, having grown accustomed to a privileged position, never believe they can possibly survive without it.
This additional funding should, however, be tested against two criteria. The first is value for money, and since we are talking about taxpayers' money, value for public money. It tots up to about £35 million and largely goes to support the college system, which is characterised by one-to-one tumrials. Excellence in teaching and research, however, achieved equally

of this Parliament. The Labour Party's manifesto for the next election, I predict, will include a commitment to sign up for EMU without the promise of a referendum. Even if it retains only a fraction of its current landslide mately political sovereignty, will be

Yours faithfully, ANDREW CRUICKSHANK, The Doone, Byfleet Road, Cobham, Surrey. October 20.

From Mr Walter Grey

Yours faithfully,

our competitors on the Continent.

Twinfirs, Talygarn, Pontyclun, Mid Glamorgan.

before has ever ever passed such a

Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.

Sauce for the gander

From Mr Peter Catto

Brown, Stock Exchange transactions are now instantaneous (report, October 20). Do you think he could flick another switch so that cheques could

Price of Oxbridge special treatment From Dr Peter Goodford

Sir, Oxford's Vice-Chancellor is most certainly right to be concerned about funding, but he seriously underestimates the worth of his university and his colleges and his colleagues. By establishing itself as an independent world-class institution, Oxford could and should be free of local political

today who would pay whatever it takes for an Oxford education. They would not all be British, but they would allow the university to re-establish the academic excellence which has been crippled since Oxford came to rely so much on government

do well to "go international" and charge the "going rate", so that the Government could be sure that it was not being overcharged for the support British students.

The Old Vicarage, Ascott under Wychwood, Oxfordshire. October 10.

Sir, Pace Anthony O'Hear, the assertion made in his pamphlet for the Centre for Policy Studies that mass higher education is an "impossible dream" (News in brief, October 13) overlooks the enduring work of Britain's largest university.

According to a recent league table of Britain's 101 universities, based upon almost 2,000 reports from the highereducation funding councils of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, there are only nine universi-ties ranked above the Open Univer-

the Open University's pioneers from the early 1960s confronted the "impossibilists" and transformed the dream into a vivid reality. As a result, millions have benefited from the undergraduate programmes, postgraduate scholarship, professional training and éducation permanente that are

Yours faithfully. GARY SLAPPER (Director, The Law Programme), The Open University, Walton Hali. Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

Sir, When I consulted Gordon Gra-

ham (obituary, October 9) about how

best to choose an architect to design a

new headquarters for the Hongkong

and Shanghai Banking Corporation,

he did indeed recommend the method

used for the Lloyd's building; but he

told me most firmly that it could not

be called a competition. It was, in-

stead, a "request for proposals", in-

tended to allow architects to show how

they would address the project and

not necessarily to illustrate what buil-

the RIBA had already been completed

when he accepted my invitation to be-

come the bank's architectural adviser

to the project in 1979. Contrary to the

suggestion in your obituary, this ap-

pointment did not coincide with him

have created a potential conflict of in-

terests. By the time he joined Norman

Foster the bank's main concerns had

shifted to planning the lit-out of the

Graham's two-year presidency of

ding they would design.

building.

Yours faithfuily, R. V. MUNDEN

Executive Director.

Lower Woodbrook,

October 15.

From Mr R. V. Munden

Design competitions

FRIBA

Yours faithfully,

FRANK GOULD.

Romford Road, E15.

Vice-Chancellor.

Sir, Clients considering design com-petitions as a way of choosing architects for complex and prestigious buildings should think twice before embarking on such a risky course. The sad story of the Cardiff Opera House, eventually "dumped" in fa-your of a millennium centre ("Changing times in Cardiff", Weekend.

September 13), is a case in point. A safer way to choose is through competitive interviews. These enable the client to take account of the architect's past achievements, the views of previous clients, visits to the office and relevant buildings and, most important of all, discussion about the architect's approach to the opportunity. This will reveal whether or not there is a meeting of minds and good chemistry between those in-

It is my experience that buildings are as good as the human relation-ships which go to make them. If these are wrong there is little chance of a

ANDREW DERBYSHIRE. Hatfield, Hertfordshire. October 10.

Brought to book

From Mr Joseph Connolly

Sir, Do I mind that Jason Cowley has portrayed me as a toadying and des-perate novelist, approaching him for favours at a literary party ("The Booker Prize stole my summer". October 14)? Well — he's entitled to an opinion. Or that he has cited my first novel. Poor Souls (1995), as being in conten-

tion for a prize instead of Stuff (1997), my third? Not a bit - even Booker judges are capable of error. As to his blindingly witty likening of my appearance to that of Karl Mark I am simply bowled over in admiration. In all the 25 years I have worn longish hair and a full beard, no one

remark. But as to his assertion that at this literary party I was wearing an "Armani suit" — here I firmly draw the line. An off-the-peg Italian job? I think not. The suit in question - in common with all my suits - is bespoke Savile Row. I cannot remember what Mr Cowley was wearing, but I'm sure it was very nice.

Yours faithfully, J. CONNOLLY, c/o The Groucho Club, 45 Dean Street, Wl. October 15.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk pressures and local penny-pinching.

There are any number of people

funding.
In fact all of our universities might which it gives to our own deserving

Yours truly, PETER GOODFORD,

From Dr Gary Slapper

The imagination and dedication of

part of the university's mission.

October 13.

From Sir Andrew Derbyskire,

University of East London.

Breast implants

Lowton, Taunton, Somerset.

The Hongkong and Shangha

Banking Corporation, 1981-85),

From Professor D. Radford Shanklin

Sir. Your report of October 6 on the dangers of silicone breast implants was cavalier to a fault towards both Baroness Jay and myself. The "supposedly discredited" evidence at issue is both extensive and specific and was well laid out for Baroness Jay and her staff prior to her request for a new

The test to which you refer, designed to show that silicone implants are leaking by the detection of silicone in the bloodstream, is the only one available so far that will track the progress of the patient.

I am aware of over 3,000 fully negative tests in control subjects - those with no known exposure to silicone within the body. This compares favorably with three or four alleged "faise positives". The principle behind the test is well substantiated by other literature in the field, dating back to

Writing as a pathologist with exper-tise in immunology and as a clinician who has seen hundreds of these patients I will say categorically that silicone inside the human body is quite capable of great harm, including denth.

Yours truly. RADFORD SHANKLIN (Professor of Pathology and of Obstetrics and Gynecology). University of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee.

Strings attached to orchestral jobs

From Mr Alexander Cowdell

Sir. I found your report (October 13) on the funding of musical instruments for orchestral players and Lord Menuhin's response (letter, October 17)

most interesting. As an orchestral musician, I would like to take the discussion a step further by pointing out that the in-struments used by professional musicians in orchestras are classified by the Inland Revenue as "plant and machinery". Players in regional orches-tras are considered to be "employees". but are nonetheless expected to provide their own instruments, like their self-employed colleagues in the London orchestras, and this considerable outlay must be undergone before they

can even audition for a position, Can you imagine a situation in, for example, the business sector, with employees expected to provide the equipment on which they work, and their job prospects dependent not merely on their skills and experience but on the quality of their computer? Yet this is the case with orchestras, where the quality of the sound is, at the end of the day, dependent not just on the tal-ent of the musicians but on the quality

of the instruments. Many young musicians on leaving college, already in debt, will not be in a position to afford the £6,000 to E8,000 mentioned by Lord Menuhin for the purchase of a modern instru-

One is tempted to say that only in the arts could such ridiculous anoma-

Yours sincerely. A COWDELL (Violinist, English National Opera), 8 Blendon Terrace, Plumstead Common, SE18.

From His Honour Owen Stable, QC Sir, Ten years ago the Benslow Music Trust, a registered charity, was asked to take over the trusteeship of an existing musical instrument loan scheme. The scheme had been started as a result of a letter published in The Times on January 23, 1932, from two leading violin teachers, after their letter had been submitted and approved by 13 of the most eminent musicians of

that day. They asked owners of good instruments, which were not being used, to lend them to the trustees to lend out to promising young players unable to afford instruments commensurate with

Over the years the trust has been lent, or has had bequeathed or has bought, over 300 good-quality instruments, mostly stringed. Though its stock grows year by year, the demand from suitable borrowers far exceeds the trust's ability to meet demand.

Earlier this year the trust resolved

to try to double its stock over the next five years, whether or not it receives help of lottery funds from the Arts Council.

OWEN STABLE (Chairman, development appeal). Benslow Music Trust. Little Benslow Hills. Off Benslow Lane, Hitchin, Hertfordshire. October 17.

Sensitive souls joining Foster Associates, which could From Mr Eric McQuaid

Sir. I really must protest at the growing tendency of thin-skinned ministers, Mr Robin Cook (October 16) and Lord Irvine of Lairg (October 15) to name but two, to use your valuable but limited columns to defend their recent activities and

This severely reduces the amount of space left for lesser mortals to air what are for most of us far more absorbing Let them rely on their talented spindoctors to mislead us rather than

wasting our time and your space. Yours faithfully ERIC McQUAID. 23a Langland Gardens, NW3.

Sound investment?

From Mr J. Whittle Sir, Breaking the sound barrier on land (letter, October 17) took time. talent, enterprise and courage - and was, in my opinion, a stupid waste of

Yours faithfully. J. WHITTLE. 185 Garstang Road, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire.

October 17.

Golden egg From Mr R. Collinge

Sir, Anniversary presents are notoriously difficult to choose, but surely Tai-Shan Schierenberg's gift to the Queen of his painting, Bobby Charlton and his Mum (front page. October 17), will be out of place among the masterpieces in Her Majesty's col-

Yours sincerely, R. COLLINGÉ, Mon Abri, Townshend Road, Worle, Weston-super-Mare, North West Somerset.



COURT CIRCULAR

Maktoum (Head of the Depart-

ment of Information).
This evening Their Royal High-

nesses attended a Reception and Dinner given by Mr Christopher Wilton (Consul-General) and Mrs

Wilton aboard the British Bank

October 20: The Duke of Kent, Vice Chairman, the British Overseas

Trade Board, this afternoon at-

tended a Luncheon given by the British Chamber of Commerce in

Korea at the Westin Chosun Hotel.
His Royal Highness this afternoon called upon Mr Lam Chang-

yuel (Minister for Trade, Industry and Energy).

The Duke of Kent this evening

attended a Reception given by Her Majesty's Ambassador (His Ex-

Majesty's Ambassador (His Ex-cellency Mr Stephen Brown) at the residence for members of the Trade Mission and later arended a Dinner given by the Honorary Chairman of Hyundai Motors (Mr Chung Seyung) at the Lotte Hotel, Seoul, Korea.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

October 20: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Rt Han Sir Angus Ogilvy, this morning visited Chapman University, Orange County, and this afternoon visited

the Orange County Performing Arts Center in Costa Mesa.

Her Royal Highmess and Sir Angus Ogitvy later attended a Garden Party given by the World Affairs Council of Orange County

at Village Crean, Newport Beach, Orange County. Princess Alexandra, accompa-

nied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, subsequently opened a Christmas Exhibition at the Rog-er's Garden Center, Corona del

YORK HOUSE

BUCKINGHAM PALACE October 20: The Duke of Edinburgh. Trustee, this evening at-tended a Meeting of the Trustees of The Prince Philip Trust Fund for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead at Eton College, fol-lowed by a Royal Charity Gala in the Farrer Theatre, and was re-ceived by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire [Mr Philip Wroughton]. The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded the Lady Elton as Lady in Waiting to The Ousen.

Waiting to The Queen. KENSINGTON PALACE October 20: The Duke and Ducheas of Gloucester this morning visited the Qatar Academy, Doha. Afterwards His Royal Highness was received by The Amir of the State of Qatar (Shaikh Hamad bin Khaliffa Al-Thani) at the Amiri

The Duke of Gloucester later visited the West Bay Lagoon Development Visitors' Centre.

His Royal Highness afterwards viewed the new Conference Centre and subsequently arrended the Qatar British Business Forum Luncheon at the Ramada Renais-

The Duchess of Gloucester visthe Duchess of Globosser vis-ted the British Embassy and afterwards visited the Shaikh Khalifa Tennis Complex. Her Royal Highness was re-ceived and subsequently enter-tained to Luncheon by Shaikha Mouza at Al-Walhs Palace.

Mouza at Al-Wajba Palace. The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon departed the State of Qatar for Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and were received on arrival by Her Majesty's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (His Excellency Mr Anthony Harris) and Shaikh

Today's royal

engagements The Prince of Wales, on behalf of

the Queen, will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00; will host a reception for the General Osteopathic Council at St James's Palace at 2.00; as Presi-

dent of The King's Fund, will host

a lecture on Integrated Healthcare

— A Way forward for the Next Five
Yount at St James's Palace at 6.00

followed by a reception. Later, as President, The Prince's Trust, he will attend a reception to thank

The Princess Royal, as President, Save the Children Fund, will visit

their shop at 73 Cornwall Street,

Plymouth, at II.30; will attend a luncheon for volunteers and supporters on board HIMY Britan-

nia at Plymouth at 12.30; as President, Royal Yachting Associ-ation, will open the Royal Plym-outh Corinthian Yacht Club's

Clubhouse, Madeira Road, at 2.45:

and will attend an annual meeting

at Plymouth Hoe Moat Hous

Armada Way, at 4.00, Later, she

on board HMY Britannia at

Princess Margaret, as President.

The Guide Association, will give a reception at Kensington Palace for

Automobile Club at 6.30.

Peter Roberts

Mar, Orange County.

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Peter Roberts, Managing Editor, The Times, 1990-96, and Managing Editor, The Sunday Times, 1978-90, will be held at St Bride's, Fleet Street, at noon on Tuesday, November 11.

Gatehouse School, London

In May 1998 the Gate House or may 1996 the Cate House School will be 50 years old. To celebrate this event we wish to gather as many old pupils as possible. If you have fond (or other) memories of Mrs Wallbank, the cloisters, the Nativity plays, Dallington Street, the move, the Redchurch School, Exmouth Market, the "Uganda Cruise", skiling trips, the house at Buckle, pag-eants and plays, friends and enemies, please contact Miss A. Eversole, at the Gatehouse School, Seummietone Rosei London E2 9JG.

Baron Jacobs

The life barony conferred upon Sir David Anthony Jacobs has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Jacobs, of Beigravia in the City of Westminster.

DEATES

Birthdays today

Sir Malcolm Arnold, composer, 76; Mr Geoffrey Boycott, crickener, 57; Mr David Campese, rugby player, 35; Mr Norman Clarke, former Scretary and registrar, Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, 81: Mr Simon Gray, writer, 61; Lord Grieve, 80: Sir Maurice Hodgson, former chairman, Brit-Hoogson, tormer chairman, Bra-ish Home Stores, 78; Mr John Hull, former deputy chairman, Schroders, 72; Mr Peter Mandel-son, MP, 44; Professor Sir Roy Marshall, former Vice-Chancellor, Hull University, 77; Miss Nadia Nerina, prima ballerina, 70; Lord Oranmore and Browne, 96; Mr John Stevens, former Chief Constable, Northumbria, 55; Lord Thomas of Swynnerton, 66; Mr P.J. Tosch, former chairman, Vauxhall Motors, 57; Mr Francis Warner, poet and dramatist, 60; Sir William Whitfield, architect, 77; Dr Elsie Widdowson, CH, FRS, nutritionist, 91.

Luncheons

Newspaper Society Mr John Redwood, MP, was the guest of honour at a Newspaper Society luncheon held yesterday at Bloomsbury House. Among those

Securities Institute Mr Andrew Wurkler, Chief Executive of the Securities and Invest ments Board, was the principal guest at a luncheon held yesterday at 24 Monument Street. Mr Gra-ham Ross Russell, chairman, pre-

Rotary Club of Loadon Mr Clifford Charles, President of the Rotary Club of London, pre-sided at a luncheon held yesterday at the Portman Hotel. Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Pope, Secretary-General of the Royal British Legion, also spoke.

Dinner

Mr John Major, MP, was the guest of honour and principal speaker at a dinner of the Pilgrims held last night at the Savoy Hotel. Lord Carrington, KG, CH, president, was in the chair and Mr Robert Worcester, chairman, also spoke. Worcester, chairman, also spoke.
Among others present were:
The Right Rev R.D. Say, Lord and
Lady Astor of Hever, Lady
Carrington, Lord and Lady Corriwallis, Field-Marshal Lord and
Lady long, Lord and Lady Feynon of
Yeovil. Lord and Lady Feynon, Baroness Trumpington, Lord and
Lady Vivian, Dr Geoffrey Young
and Baroness Young, the Hon alan
Clark, MP, the Hon Dame Mary
Hogg, the Hon Sir Peter and Lady
Runsbotham, the Hon Sir Clive
and the Lady Barbara Bosson, Sir
Peter and Lady Cazalet, Sir Michael and Lady Cubic, Sir Brian and Lady Goswell, Sir Michael and Lady Rerr. Sir Peter and Lady Marshall, Sir Prank Roberts, Sir Angus Striding, Sir William van Straubenzee, Air Culef Marshal Sir Neil and Lady Wright, Sir Oliver and Lady Wright, Sir Philip Goodhart, Mr and Mrs Peter Batten, Mr Robert Bradtke, Mr and Mrs James Butler, Mr John Fingleton, Mr and Mrs Robert I, Sigmon, Mr and Mrs Robert I, Sigmon, Mr and Mrs Robert I, Sigmon, Mr and Mrs Robert Mr Streator and Mrs Robert Mr Streator and Mrs Robert Mr Wortsman.



David Helfgott, left, the Australian planist on whose life the film Shine was based, with Bramwell Tovey, conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, during rehearsals yesterday at the Albert Hall for a concert there last night

£97m plan for British Museum will make Reading Room a place of study

BY JOHN YOUNG

THE British Museum Reading Room, which finally closes on Friday, will remain a place of study after the completion of the museum's redevelopment and expannion in three years' time. It will house a new 25,000volume reference library presented by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, and a computersed database funded by a £6.7 million grant from the Annenberg Foundation established by the former American Ambassador to Britain.

Dr Robert Anderson, the ing details of the £97 million scheme to restore the Neo-Classical Great Court to its original splendour, said vesterday that most of the worldfamous book collection from the Reading Room had already been moved to the new British Library due to open next

month. The Rending Room itself would be returned to its original 1857 appearance with its blue, cream and gold decorations fully restored. Dr Anderson also announced a grant of £15.75

million from the Heritage Lottery Fund, part of which will pay for a new education centre for the 250,000 children who visit the museum in school groups every year. The grant, added to an earlier £30 million from the Millennium Fund and \$40 million in private and charitable donaabout £11 million of the target. The museum, designed by Robert Smirke and completed in the early 1850s, originally surrounded a garden open to the public. But within a few years the central area was

occupied by the circular mass of the Reading Room sur-

rounded by nondescript buildings used to store books. The Great Court project, designed by Sir Norman Foster, entails the removal of all the now redundant buildings to provide a large open space with restaurants, cafes and bookshops under a glass roof. It will relieve the present estion caused by some seven million visitors a year, two million more than visit either the Louvre in Paris or the Metropolitan Museum in

Work on the development will begin next March and is scheduled to be completed in late 2000. Sir Claus Moser, chairman of the British Museum Development Trust, said yesterday he was confident that unlike the much trou-bled British Library, it would be completed on time and

Forthcoming marriages

Mr K.N.C. Etmin and Miss R.J.E. Roberts

SMON WALKET

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr Michael Elmitt and the late Mrs Elmitt of Waldron, Sussex, and Rebecra, eldest daughter of Surgeon Commander (D) Michael Roberts, RN, and of Mrs Jane

Mr J.D. Elrington
and Miss P.R. Money
The engagement is announced
between James, youngest son of
Colonel and Mrs Paul Elrington,
of Edale, Derbyshire, and Pascale,
youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs
Christopher Money, of Cheam,
Survey.

Mr E. Gerden and Miss E. Blower The engagement is amnounced between Edward, son of Mr and Mas John Gardner, of Upton Grey, Hampshire, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Blower, of Westhourne, West

Mr.A.C. Holdand

and Miss R.J. Oliver The engagement is announced between Andrew Charles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Holdstock of Plympton, Devon, and Rut James, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Oliver, of Ness, Mr T.R. Jones

and Mins L.I. Bra

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Timothy Rupert Jones, 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's), eldest son of Brigadier and Mrs Robert Jones, of Bruson, Somerset, and Lucy Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs George Branston, of

The engagement is announced between Eric John Betram, son of Mrs Ursula Hulflegger and the late Mr Robert Hulflegger, of Zug. Switzerland, and Carole Leila, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Slor Pendle, of Frinton-on-Sea, Essex

Mr J.K. Flesse and Miss L.A. Dolan The engagement is announced between Julian, elder son of Mz Rupert Hutton, of Benatrite, Portugal, and Mrs Malcolm Burr, of London SW3, and Laura, younger daughter of the late Mr James P. Dolan and of Mrs Dolan. of Lake Forest, Illinois, USA.

Mr M.J. Newton and Miss J. Strates

The engagement is announced between Marcus, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Hedley Newton, of Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, and Jennie, daughter of Mr Richard Steams, of Cranbrook, Kent, and Mrs Susan Croysdill, of Headcorn,

Major G.H.P.S. Nickerson
and Miss F.I. Pearce
The engagement is announced
between Major Harry Nickerson. between Major Frarry Nickerson.
Scots Guards, elder son of the late
Major George Nickerson and of
Mrs George Nickerson, of Kimyre,
Argyll, and Piona, daughter of Mr
and Mrs Eric Pearce, of Hadley
Wood, Hertfordshire.

Mr D.G. Tronsum and Miss C.M. Trustram Eve The engagement is announced between Glenn, son of Mr and hetween Grenn, sou or was an Mrs Jack Trotman, of Angonering, Sussex, formerly of Hong Kong, and Catherine, daughter, of Mrand Mrs Roy Trustram Eve, of Mrand Mrs Roy Trustram Eve, of Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire.

Marriage Dr. D.A. Tupper-Carry

The marriage took place on Octo-ber 18, 1997, at St John's Church, Poulton le-Pylde, between Dr Darell Tupper-Carey, FRCA, and Mass Sara Darby.

Painter-Stainers' Company.

The following have been installed officers of the Painter-Stainers Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr R.M. Price: Upper Warden, the Hon Maurice Rob-son; Renter Warden, Mr B.P. Boning.

Meeting

Royal Over-Seas Longue Dr Brism Story was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Over-Seas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mrs Mairi Radeliff presided.

Cambridge King's College

Robin Osmond Blackburn has research fellowship for 12 months from October I, 1998. Mr Blackburn has been editor of the New Left Review since 1983 and is currently based in London.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Georg Ernst Stahl, chemist, Anshach, Germany, 1660; chemist, Anshach, Germany, 1660; George Colman the Younger, actor. London, 1762; Samuel Taylor Coleridge, post. Othery St Mary, Devon. 1772; George Combe, phrenologist, Edinburgh, 1788; Alphonse de Lamartine, poet and statesman, Mácost, France, 1790; Alfred Nobel, inventor of dynamite, founder of prizes bearing his name, Stockholm, 1833; Leonard Rossiner, actor and comedian. Rossiter, actor and comedian, Liverpool, 1926.

DEATHS: Pietro Arelino, salirist, Venice, 1557; Edmund Waller, poet, Besconsfield, Buckinghamshire, 1667; Arthur Schninzler, dramatist, Vienna, 1931; Sir-Muirhead Bone, wastercolourist and etcher, Ferry Hinksey, Oxford, 1953; Jack Kerouac, writer, Jack Lending Market Market 1668. Horstin Nelson, Viscount Nelson, was killed to action at the Datalo of Trafalgar, 1805.

At Aberian, near Merthyr Tydfil, a coal tip collapsed crate a school, killing 144 people, including 116 children, 1966. Willy Brandt was elected Chan-cellor of West Germany, 1969.

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Latest wills

Lady (Pauline Llly) Sleff of Lady (France Lary) owen to Brimpton, of London SW10, left estate valued at £4.487,276 net. she tot £100,000 to the Edists Friends of the Arra Museums of Israel, and £25,000 to both Jewish Cure and the Middleset Hospimi Special Trossess. Baron Chelmer, of Margaretting. Essex, left estate valued

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OVERSEAS TRAVEL

DOMESTIC SITUATION

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SIRTHS	

GRAY - On October 15th at The Fortland Hospital to Combine Common Min Rachel Aban, a taughter, Min Rachel a sister for Jacqueline, Daniel, Uniter, Joel, Adam, Tamara and Daniella.

MENOS - On Genebur 20th of

PARAMER - Un Omober 15th of The Portland Hombal to Heidi (non Morris) and James, a see James Israkova. PAYME - On October 17th 1997 to Julia (née Cohb) and Richard, a sm., William John Cilmon POST - On October 7th at The

STOREY - On 19th October

Marin - On October 12th at The Fortland Hospital to Caroline (nie da Costa) and Martin a daughter, Florance Mary Routher, a since for Physical Research

ANNIVERSARIES

HITCHIGAN - Jay and Richard Compatibilities, with loss of love Com IIIIa and Bencia. GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

ARRETRONG - Professor
Arthor Hibry, pescefully at
Harriford General Hospital
on 16th October, Fameni at
12.00 neon in Lucilow Parish
Church 24th October, Family
flowers; donations for
Bardsay Island Trust Appeal
ofto G. Heiron Funeral
Director, Wheelwright's
Bhop, Bromfield, Ludlow,
Shmpshire.

Shropshre.

CHANNEHLAM - Sham (now Shropshre.

CHANNEHLAM - Sham (now windred Louise Ross) died pescerully at Shihopswood Hospital, Northwood, on 17th October, aged 63. Much loved by her husband, Eric, her children, aged 63. Much loved by her husband, Eric, her children, aged 63. Much loved by her husband, Eric, her children, aged 63. Much loved by her husband, Eric, her children, genderhicken and great grantson. The financial will have place at the East Chapal of Rankapsic Crematoricus, Ruislip on 11.00. Femily flowers only, but dometions, if desired, to the National Aschms but demarious, if course, up the National Arthus Campaign, c/o E. Spark Ltd. 104 Finner Road, Southwood, Ltd 185.

CHAPMAN - Lady Punline Process On 17th October, peacefully on the lule of Wight where a short threes. The dearly level with a the late Hon. Sir Stephen Chapman Service at the LO.W. Crematorium, Thursday October 23rd at 2.00pm. Alt inquiries to Julie Citi 371 5568.

hale Citi 371 Field.
CHARMAND - Jame Elimbeth
(hée Blundell) died
peacefully 17th October.
Beleved wife of Fani and
nother of Louis and Joe.
Faneral at Surrey and
Sassex Commitmen, Worth
23rd October 3pm no
flowers. Dematices to: EME
Dr. T Powells Escentis Fund
in memory of Jame Charmand
clo Royal Maradan Hospital
Satton SM2 57T.
CLOUSH - Francis Hugh Setton SM2 SPT.
CLOUBH - Francis Hugh
Butier, aged 80, at hume on
19th October. Beloved
husband of Alex (née
Cotacill), loving nature of
Authory, Roger and Richard
and grandfather of six
geneticalities. Greanties at
Mortlake, on Friday 24th
October at 4.30pm. Family
flowers only, Department of
desired to the Rritish
Diabetic Association of T H
Sanders, 447 Upper
Elchmond Send West, SW14
77E. Tel: 0181 876 4673,

pescateally, on 16th October at the age of 94. Much loved, "Mo" will be easily missed by Ann, Sunsin, and Marit and her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren and grant-grandchildren and Commetton private followed by Service of Thunksgiving on Thursday Zani October at 11.30 am at Holy Zanity Church, Church Crockban, Hampaliba, Flowent to Kamp & Shevens Tah 01420 23177. 18th October 1997 and 79
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18th State of the bru North
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18th State of Christopher, Tetrenhall Road, Wolvenhampton at 120 pm on Wednandry 29th October fellowed by private committee. Fundly flowers only by sequent, demarked to Canour Immendia of or Jennings Fungral Dirictors, Hotseley Fields

Elements Dear Ausband of Reary. Dear Ausband of Rester and leving father, pandfather, brother and Uncle. Funeral Friday. No Howess. Doustions to Hed Cross Land Mines Appeal, British Red Cross, Ernem House, Butts Roed, Deste, ELZ SED or St Paul's Church, Nowton Albott.

Ricola. Pescarfully at The country on the country of the country o

GRAHAM - Phyllis Mary, peterfully on 17th October the late Maj-Gen. Preddle Graham, mother, grandmother and greatermation, a service of cranation, a service of cranation of the late 3.30pm on Setudary Zith October at St. Modot's Episcopal Church, Doune, by Stirling Churchians, if withed, to End Haig Fund or Canoer Research.

GREENHILL - Alexander on 17th October his 90th year, husband of Margaret, father of Hash and Resalted, World traveller and resident of

MALL - Walter, on 17th October 1997, died peacefully after a short libres, aged 77. Huch loved hashend of Docothy, loving father of Sue and geantifather of Mecha and Sophia. His Peacett Service will be at The Oxford Commutathum at 2.15pm on Priday, 24th Octobe. Fundly library 24th Octobe. Fundly library 24th Octobe. Fundly

MATCHARD - On 18th Combus.
1997 Kenneth Roward.
1997 Kenneth Roward.
William (Estable aged St.,
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Souweller Fund or Fir East
Prisoners of War Association
of Dhimond & San Fannes
Effecture, Lynchyston, RaustSO41 9787.

MERVEY-BATHARRET - Bun, at home on 18th Getoher 1997. Baloved husband of the late Elizabeth and of Anna. Loving father of James and Georgis. Private financial at Easther on 24th Cetoher. No flowers but donations to 2t John's, Easthor would be wilcomed. Measonial Service of Fr Michael's and Ali

es raung ou Dominher.

Hittime - On 17th Calober,
Peggy, wife of the late Dr
Charles Hollins, aged 82
years. Mother of William,
Risabeth, Robert, Margaret,
Bellada and Henry and much
loved grandmother. Penseni
Sevice at St Pener's Carrich,
Dotthester on Friday 24th
October at 11am No Rowers.
Donations if desired for the
RNID Co Gransby 7/5 16
Princes Street, Doschester
D71 17W.

16th October 1997 aged 78 at the Acland Hospital, Carled, very peacefully after a short illness. Beloved humband of Debonsh for 55 years, father of Frances, Maxion, Thomas, Micola, Anthony 2nd David; gendinther of Tours, Chios, March & Tours, Chios, March & March & Tours, Chios, Chiospier, Chiospier,

Anthony and David; gamdhather of Tours, Chlor, Rancy, Martha, Catherine, Rancy, Bett, Stumest, Dairy, Harriet, Henry, Houni, Anthony and Harriet, Henry, Houni, Anthony and Harriet, Henry, House and St. Margarat's lames, Rancy Rancy, Cathery, Lancy, Oxford, Family, Howers only, Donations if wished to the Africa Rougation Trust, 38 King Street, Lunder WC28 55.

at 5t Michael's and Al

RITCHES - John Static (nice Pholps) at last in peace, past strong quietly in hospital, in the early hours of Studay manning, Cremation Service in Salaboury on Priday 24th at 9.00 am. Family discuss-only, donations if dendred to Canter Mesearch or Medical Tract, of o list R, Pope Pangual Plantings, Stalinding.

LEWES - John Addings (Juck), on October 17th 1997, apad \$3 years, busband of the last Viola, beloved father and geaminsther. Penneul at \$5 artholomew's Church, Cross-in-Hand, 11sh ou Thursday October 23rd, Pamily flowers only, Donations to Issues House House House Cross-in-Hand, House House House Cross-in-Hand, Pamily flowers only, Donations to Issues House House Konjico Yrust cto \$ Jarvis 5/D. Cross-in-Hand, Husthfield, East Susser 17421 OSE. Telt 02435 5626333.

LONGUES - Six Gilbur hance.
Horley, H.R.E. percentally on
October 16th, aget 95. http.
for South West Harts 19511974, Greatly misself by his
relatives, potchildren and
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will be a private creamsion
with no flowers, but
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R.H.L. 20 Buckinghess Gate,
WC2. A Thrulksgiring Service
will be held on a char to be
announced. For further
deaths, call 0171 266 0767.

MAHORITY - Danny, On October 15th 1997 peacefully at Kingston Hospital, Seleved husband, father and grandfather. Thanksgiving Service at Holy Cross Church, Doughts Avanue, New Maiden 24th October at 11.30am. If desired, denations to the family for The Stroke Association, Level and sadly missed. pointial - On October 17th panestully in hospital in his sleep, john, beloved husband of Hary, Hayer of Poole 1977. He Sastern and Chartered Sank Enquiries to

POCHIN - George Ains of Woodhouse Eaves, Leisestankha Loving States of Sally and Am (Sales), Gad yesostally on October 18th 1997 aged 91. Fundard service at Loughborough Countories on February 24th October 2.30 pm. Family flowers only plause, donations if desired for the Farkthaunt Disease Society to whos chapter stood to make pepting at October 1.20 pm. 10 Character of Leisester. Tel: (0.116

MEYHOUDS - Joyce, pescalally in hospital following a smole on 17th October aged \$6. Hash loved mother of Jan and Jill Francis service at Christianski, heliert at 10.30 on 23rd October Spilowed by Cremation at Curston. Donations for Arthritis Care to Nethercove, 20 Alderdami hand, heliert MIF SAT.

SAUMEY - Rimparite Andrey an October 18th suddenly but perceiving, wite of the late factor of the late fichard Sewies Held. Private family committee. Service of Tanakspiving, Tuesday October 28th at 2.00pm St Butholomews Old. Church, Richard's Castle, Panily flowers only, Donation if dashed to The Description. Later thanch of the Langes of Rimses of Rocket Jones and Agree that Octopasche Rooghed, 21 Rend Stoot, Later.

SCOTT - Amm Barbora on October 16th 1997, peacefully at home in Oxford, need 78 years, followed wife of the late from the residence of the section of the residence of the section of the residence of the

STARTS - John Bredneich on October 17th in Telgenwerth. Aged 80. Butch loved heaband of Hagpis, beher of Hickard and Hickard, and grandfather of Mary and Jack, Funeral Service at Torquay Creastorius to Trumday October 23rd at 12 acon. Doubloos if wished to Brecord Hospies, Avenue

TUBES - Calin Rodney on October 17th 1997 aget 60 years. Funcefully in Southampton General Bospital. Hunch leved hasband and bisend of jung. Puneral for family and griends at Southampton Communication hast Chapet 12.30. He flowers, but desertions in Hea H demind in The Hongains Hilling Trust or Tenovus Canear Received may be sent ob J. Storrey Puneral Director Webbdon, Piles Hill, Lyadhunt 5043 7AL A Sturacy Penepel January Wathdoon, Pikes Hill, Lyadhunt SO43 7AY, A

Manda - On October 11th 1997 Harold James (Bin) 1860, Into of The Boyal Houfold: Regionat and The Onfordshire and Suckinghamahire Light Oxfordshire and Buckinghamahire Light-Infantry. Durry level humbard of Mangaret and father of foy. A private creamation service her takes place. Donations may be next to The Bryal Norfolk Regimental Museum ofe Mohest Pureni Service, 89 Rich Breed, Cotylen, Childs.

HARD-On Lifeh October 1997 at Hoat Cross Friending House, hickard nged 88 years. Beloved husband of Hills for 66 years. Vicur of Hoat Cross 1969-1978. A service of Thankspiving for his tife will be held at The Charch of the Holls Armels. Vicir Cross the Rolls Armels.

in the John Endelite Supplied, Onford, on 160 October 1997, following stroke on Monday 13th October 1997, onlowing

wait. Ha will be saily missed by his wife Shum, despiter Caroline and sixter Sally, Seyrice at 10.30 mm on Priday 34 Ocnober, at 8 Heisen's Chunch, Abinesion. Family Sowen only. Dennitions if desired in, Internative Theory Unit General Fund, John Bedeilffe Bengitet, Ochent, Che Prest, Abinesion, Gupm.

WOOD - Kenneth Haymard (Ken Wood) pascetulity at home on 19th October 1977 at the use of El. Belowd leakant of Heisen, Fund, Sally and Gellian and steplenther to Staven.

Sully and Gillian and stepfether to Steven. And stepfether to Steven. Serven. Serven.

PITFERSEE - A Memorial Service for the Rev. Dr. Norman Pittenger will be held in Kingr College Campel, Cambridge on Saturdry Str. November at 230pm. All welcome. DI MEMORIAM -

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ALDO BERNI

Aldo Berni, restaurant owner, died on October 12 aged 88. He was born on March 14, 1909.

ldo Berni was one of the co-founders of the Berni Inn L A chain of steakhouses, which brought "dining out" within reach of the masses in postwar Britain. Together with his elder brother Frank. he opened his first restaurant - Hort's in Bristol - half a century ago.

From there they went from strength to strength. They bought up and transformed old coaching inns such as the Mitre in Oxford and the Rummer in Bristol, which in 1955 became their first Berni Inn steakhouse. A table d'hôte Berni meal then cost 7s 6d. They went on to build up an

empire of more than 300 restaurants, including several in Japan, which became the world's biggest chain outside the United States. The idea. they freely admitted was American, but they were the first to develop it in Britain, ...

Their success was built on value for money. A schooner of sherry, prawn cocktail, steak and chips with watercress and mushrooms served with salad, then fancy ice-cream or cheese: all this was offered at a price voung couples could afford. with enough left over, perhaps, for Irish coffee.

The secret was quality control. Berni chefs cooked according to their "bible" - a weighty tome which set out their instructions to the last chip. But the helpings were generous, the ingredients firstclass, and the restaurants uniformly welcoming and clean. It might not have been haute cuisine, but no one eyer left a Berni steakhouse feeling cheated.

To keep prices down, Berni and his brother replaced tablecloths with place mats - and saved £700,000 a year in laundry bills. They never signed written contracts with wholesalers, preferring to rely on



mutual trust. But customers were encouraged to complain If standards slipped — and few suppliers or staff ever let

them down.
Aldo Berni was born outside Bardi in northern Italy, into an old Parma family whose forebears had been circus owners. Berni's father left Italy to seek his fortune in Britain, following the trail of other

. Bardi families who had settled in South Wales. He opened a case in Merthyr Tydfil and, when established, sent for his sons to come and join him.

Aldo, the youngest, who was then 16, worked for some years in his father's business. But he and his brothers each inherited a small legacy from their mother (who had stayed in Italy), and they used the

money during the Depression to set up businesses on their own - first in Exeter, then in Bristol, where Aldo and Frank

bought a pub. While his brothers Frank and Marco were interned during the war, Aldo was spared because he had a British passport. He was also exempted from serving in the Armed Forces, but had to

work on the land instead and was sent to a horticultural nursery in Bristol - from where he could also keep an eye on their business.

It was not until 1948, however, that he and Frank invested in Hort's restaurant. Marco, the middle brother, had branched out as an independent restaurateur. - Aldo and Frank were a

perfect combination. While the more outgoing Aldo looked after the inns and their customers. Frank ran the business side, balancing the books. They became millionaires on going public in 1962, but then sold out to Grand Metropolitan eight years later. Both remained on the Grand Met board for a while but had effectively retired from business life. Berni Inns were subsequently sold by Grand Met to Whitbread, who absorbed them within their own rival Beefeater chain.

Aldo Berni was a happy generous, optimistic man. He enjoyed his money, and gave much of it away. He loved good food, fine wine and the company of friends. Proud to call himself a Bristolian, he continued to live in the city, in a four-bedroom luxury bungalow in Clifton. He owned a Bentley, but drove it himself, and did the washing-up when the dishwasher broke down.

He was an avid reader who loved browsing through ency-clopaedias. He was still more passionate about golf, with a handicap of five, and spent much of his spare time on the fairway. But he was above all else a family man.

His wife Esme, a Bristol girl whom he met during the war, made her own headlines, when she died of cancer two years ago, by leaving the bulk of her £4 million fortune to a pets' home. Aldo himself suffered a severe stroke at about the same time and moved into the Bristol nursing home where he died.

He is survived by their daughter and by both of his

PROFESSOR W. L. EDGE He was fond of maintaining

Professor W. L. Edge, mothematician, died on September 27 aged 92. He was born on November 8, 1904.

WILLIAM EDGE was one of the last survivors of the great Cambridge school of geometry founded by H. F. Baker in the earlier part of this century. It reached its high point in the 1920s, and included P. du Val, W. V. D. Hodge, T. G. Room, J. G. Semple, J. A. Todd and H. S. M. Coxeter (who still

thrives). William Leonard Edge was educated at Stockport Grammar School and Trinity College. Cambridge. from which he went to Edinburgh University in 1932. He was to remain there for the rest of his academic career, retiring in 1975.

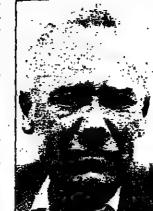
Travelling did not appeal to him, although he did attend the conference in Toronto in 1979 celebrating Coxeter's 75th birthday. He also regularly returned to Trinity, and was even persuaded to travel to the University of Sussex on two occasions. He published 91 research

articles and one book. Ruled Surfaces, between 1932 and 1994. His writing style was always polished and the argument in every paper is traced with absolute clarity. Unusually among mathematicians, every work is his alone. He would perhaps have been surprised to know that his later works are referred to in other mathematical works more than his earlier ones. His early work was entirely

in algebraic geometry, and especially algebraic surfaces in "ordinary" space. He devoted many papers to careful exegesis of families of quadrics, that is, surfaces of degree two. In 1953 he published his first paper in finite geometry, bringing all his experience of complex geometry to bear on the elucidation of finite spaces. Such geometries now have many applications in such areas as the theory of error-correcting

that, had he ever married, his output would have been far less. He expressed a certain admiration for the monastic culture that had once prevailed among academics. In fact, he was something of a misogynist and always voted against the admission of

women to Trinity. He looked back with enormous pleasure to Baker's "tea parties", and was a fund of anecdotes concerning Cambridge men, and about Edin-



burgh colleagues such as Sir Edmund Whittaker and Alec Aitken.

Apart from mathematics his great loves were walking and music, and his lodgings had always to accommodate a grand piano. Together with Aitken (violin), Walter Ledermann (viola) and Robin Schlapp (violin), he formed the

"mathematical quartet".

They performed in particular on the first Friday of each month that the Edinburgh Mathematical Society met. There was always a dinner for the speaker at Whittaker's house, and Whinaker, who hated small-talk, would say after dinner, "Edge, would you care to perform?"

The quartet alternated between Mozart's G minor and his E flat (his only two piano quartets), and played nothing else on these occasions. Edge was also a capable singer, and

performed the solo in a Bach cantata for participants at one of the St Andrews colloquia that still take place every four

years. It was said that he was not ... available for university work in the early afternoon, because every day after lunch he took a bus to the Pentland Hills to walk from Pennicuik to Balerno. At some time during the Second World War, however, universities were asked to restrict their activities to daytime to avoid the blackout in the evening. At a faculty seminar, Whittaker proposed that lectures be put forward to 2pm. and asked if all agreed. "No. sir." said an indignant Edge, "s gentleman does not work in the afternoon." In later years, he did not much like it when this remark was

quoted. He was devoted to his undergraduate students, but none ever did any research with him. It was so much the custom to send any high-flyer to Cambridge for further study that Edge only ever had one research student, in 43 years.

In conversation. Edge was a Johnsonian figure. He spoke in a deep Lancashire baritone. with a very particular rhythm that did not permit interruption. His letters are a wonderful mixture of pessimism about the state of universities, analysis of other people's research articles (with reprimands for details omitted or lack of historical perspective) and warm personal affection.

Edge had a deep knowledge of classical algebraic geometry, and although he published a considerable number of works in group theory and finite geometry, it was to this that he returned. The last time that his research student paid him a visit, in March 1996. Edge upbraided him for not having solved several classical problems, which more modern algebraic geometry had also left undone. Although his hearing and sight were now weak, his mind was as sharp

SIR DEREK RICHES

Sir Derek Riches KCMG, Ambassador to Lebanon, 1963-67, died on October I aged 85. He was born on July 26, 1912.

ONE of the Foreign Office's lending specialists on the Middie East, Derek Riches was expelled from Lebanon exacth 30 years ago as the Arab world. reacted to the Six Days War. Arab leaders such as Presi-King Hussein of Jordan, humiliated by their defeat, had

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encouraged the rumour that , was escorted to the airport and British and American aircraft expelled. carriers had aided and abetted Israel's pre-emptive strike. -

The rumour — dubbed "the Big Lie" by Western diplomats - led to riots in Beirut and attacks on the British Embassy. A number of Arab states Lebanese contented themselves with throwing out the British ambassador, who was dent Nasser of Egypt and anyway nearing the end of his posting in Belrut. Despite his own vigorous protests, Riches

DIRECTORY

Six months later, aged only 55, he took early retirement. so dismaying contemporaries ·

who had expected him eventually to move to one of the Middle East's leading missions, such as Jedda or Cairo. broke off relations, while the : But Riches had made up his mirid some years before. He had held a succession of

testing posts in the Third World, culminating in three tours as head of mission. His two years in Libya, 1959-61,

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had been tranquil enough in the days of King Idris. But this had been followed by the Congo in its turbulent time after independence. Eleven days after Beigian rule ended. Moise Tshombe had led Katanga, with its rich copper deposits, out of the new republic, throwing the huge country

Riches, whose embassy was under siege, was present at the height of the troubles, which saw the murder of the Congolese Premier, Patrice Lumum-

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into turmoil.

ba, and the intervention of UN peacekeeping troops. He delivered a stiff protest to the UN Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld, over the activities of the UN force which was, in Britain's view, overstepping its authority. But Hammarskjöld was killed in an air crash shortly afterwards.

Riches was rewarded with a knighthood on leaving for Lebanon. But disagreement with several aspects of British policy in the Middle East was later to help to persuade him that he had had enough of professional diplomacy. Derek Martin Hurry Rich-

es was born near Caerphilly Castle in South Wales, above the bank where his father was manager. Derek's grandmother had been Benjamin Distacli's stepdaughter. The family eventually

moved to London, where Derek's father became a senior executive of the National Provincial Bank. Derek Riches went to University College School, Hampstead. where he was an unflinching lock forward in the rugby 1st XV, and thence to University College London to read economics He began his career in 1934

in the Levant Consular Service

as a probationer vice-consul in Beirut. He learnt Arabic, which he found intensely difficult. By the start of the Second World War he was "assistant oriental secretary" in Cairo, from where he was seconded to Ethiopia to serve with the Allied Military Government in Occupied Territories. He was given a temporary commission, and his elder brother, later to become commandant-general of the Royal Marines, was shocked to find on visiting Cairo that he had to salute

Riches's career prospects brightened after the war with the merging of the Consular and Diplomatic Services. He went to Kabul in 1948-49, before becoming consul and then

charge d'affaires in Jedda. Then, in 1955, he took charge of a new trade commission in Khartoum, preparing the way for an embassy in the newly independent Sudan. Promoted to counsellor, he headed the eastern department in the Foreign Office and went from that job to his first ambassador's post, in Libya. Although his career ended

where he began it, in Lebanon, this was probably not the post he would have chosen. Beirut was then the rich man's playground of the Near East, which for diplomats meant a seamless round of cocktail parties and chic conversation.

A tall, imposing figure, with a keen intellect, a good sense of humour and perfect manners. Derek Riches was himself an engaging conversa-tionalist. But he was also a serious professional, not given to frivolous intrigue or selfindulgence, and viewed such goings-on from beneath a

raised eyebrow. He would have felt more gainfully employed in Damascus or Cairo. close to the big issues of the Middle East He was entirely incorrupt-

ible. He tried to end the embassy's tradition of giving cigarettes and whisky every Christmas to local officials who had helped it during the year, which he considered to be bribery. He was reluctantly persuaded to give way, but insisted that the gifts should at least be bought on the open market, instead of from the diplomatic store (at a fraction of the price).

He got on surprisingly well with Arab leaders, winning their respect not by haggling in the souk, but through his meticulous research shrewd mastery of the arguments. His Arabic was sound rather than brilliant, but he always took great care to get everyone's name right. On leaving the Diplomatic :

Service, he worked as a foreign affairs adviser at Conservative Central Office. He retained, throughout, his interest in the Middle East and was on the editorial board of the journal of the Royal Society of Asian Affairs.

At home, he relaxed with Trollope, well-thumbed volumes testifying that the author's views about the human condition coincided with

his own. He married his American wife, Helen, in 1942 after

meeting her in Cairo - where she was working in the American legation. Their honeymoon was spent on a boat going up the Nile. She died eight years ago, after he had devotedly nursed her for many months. Derek Riches, who died while recovering from an operation, is survived by their daughter.

M. SANTOS DUMONTS BALLOON. (FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Paris, Oct 20. The 19th of October, 1901, promises to be a red-letter day in the annals of human progress. M. Santos Dumont yesterday carried out the Deutsch prize programme. He went from the park at St. Cloud round the Eiffel Tower and returned to the shed 30 seconds within the 30 minutes fixed by the programme ... At 2.40pm, a telephone message from the

Eiffel Tower advised me to go on my balcony. which commands a view extending from far beyond St. Cloud up to the Eiffel Tower, which is a few hundred yards distant. There were with me at the time a statesman, who had arrived from abroad, an enlightened French politician, and several other persons attracted by the prospect commanded by the balcony . . . We looked towards the slopes of St. Cloud. Suddenly at 2.43, we saw the Santos Dumont emerge from the verdure of those slopes and mount straight upwards, the prow turned towards us. After an instant's hesitation it took its direction in an almost straight line, and leaning a little to the left, appeared in the space within our view, of which the Eiffel

ON THIS DAY October 21, 1901

From the invention of the balloon in the late 18th century the French have played a leading party in its development. Among the oneers were the Montgolfier brothers, Pilatae de Rozier and J.P. Blanchard.

Tower formed the extreme point. Never, have I seen a finer spectacle. The balloon was then at right angles to us, the slight and almost transparent car hanging steadily from the centre ... At this moment, six and a half minutes after its first appearance on the horizon, the balloon, moving at the rate of 30 miles an hour, was rapidly approaching one of the angles of the third platform of the tower. We felt a thrill of terror. At the distance at which we were stationed we were convinced that it would dash against the tower, but with amazing docility, it veered slightly to the left, almost grazed the side of the tower, and then, through the interstices of the tower, we saw it, with a grand movement, turn towards the centre of the Champ de Mars. There with graceful hesitation, it sought its mathematical line, retraced its steps, and this time slowly and with a certain effort passed into the exact axis of the Trocadero turrets and resumed the route to St. Cloud. While the airship was behind a screen of

houses the screw, the movement of which was audible to us, slackened speed and then stopped for some seconds. The balloon descended towards the ground. We fancied the experiment to be a failure and the navigator in peril. Happily, nothing of the kind. The balloon, then making 14 miles an hour, had to struggle with a breeze blowing at the rate of 13 miles an hour. This struggle not only slackened its speed but necessitated tacking which produced a displacement of the grease inside the motor, thus affecting the screw. At this moment, some soldiers on the spot seized the guide rope, thinking that the balloon must be going to alight. M. Santos Dumont, in alarm, told them to let go; he then threw out a little ballast, and we saw the balloon rise again, thus dispelling our uneasiness. It then steered straight for St. Cloud, passed without any fresh accident above the trees bordering the Seine, then stopped and finally disappeared in its shed . . .

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The story so far

Finally, after all these weeks . . . I think I can guess what you're going to say. A sighting, at last . . . Only because you never go to watch Chelsea reserves.

... of my ITF team left-back . . . Paninaro, the Italian scooter-rider? Babayaro. Celestine Babayaro, to be precise. Nigerian international, you know. And he's finally played a premier

league game. Chelsea won 1-0, so he gets one point each for a win and an appearance and, as a defender, three for the clean sheet. Even though he played in midfield. Rund Guilit is a tactical genius.

Babayaro should have scored, though, shouldn't he? Twice, if my memory serves me correctly. He did hit the crossbar with one shot. And compty air with another. Got in someone's way too, I seem to remember. A goal would have been worth

Stop trying to cheer me up. He's only young, after all. That explains his booking: youthful exuberance. And Lebocuf scored the winner. He's in your team,

I was hoping you weren't going to mention that. You re-member you told me to transfer him out for those difficult matches against Newcastle and Liverpool? Of course.

Well, I took your apparently excellent advice, but ...
I can guess what's coming ...
I forgot to transfer him back again. It could be worse. Other entrants I know bought Alan Shearer at the beginning of the season and haven't trans-

ferred him out yet.

Or won't remember to transfer Gustavo Poyet, now that he's out for the season. It's important to use the transfer system to make sure you get the most from the available players, rather than sticking with unavailable ones. Bergkamp's yellow card at Crystal Palace on Saturday means he will miss three league games. So people with him in their side should get on the

phone and pull someone in on loan, so to speak. And they just might find a striker who scores a few goals, and want to keep him. Chris Sutton, for example. Blackburn have one or two easyish-looking games around the time of Bergkamp's suspension.
You don't fancy a job as assistant manager, do you? What's the money like? A share of my winnings.

Need to find out how well your

team is doing? The Times faxback

service can provide you with instant, up-to-date information

A REMINDER that the Times Faxback service recently came into operation. This enables all Interactive Team Football entrants to find out quickly and easily how well their team is doing. The service provides you with a complete results service updated by noon the day after matches have finished and is already being used by thousands of ITF players. For full details see the panel, right.

Last week five points figures in the team lists were inaccurate. These have been corrected and the full up-todate information is on the page opposite.

■ These player lists include values based on this month's player revaluation. Players in your team can now only be transferred at these prices; this may mean that the total value of your squad is now more (or less) than the initial £35 million, but you do not have to make transfers to restore the £35 million total. In effect, your judgment (or lack of it) has boosted (or cut) the value of your squad, and you can now make transfers according to the new value of your ITF team.

This means you must check the value of a player when you come to transfer him and must transfer at the current value. If one of your players' value has increased, you may transfer him at the increased value and



buy a player at the increased amount or save the cash for your next transfer - likewise, if a players value decreases, and you want to transfer him, you may only do so at the amount he is worth at the time

You can still enter Interactive Team Football via The Times Website (www.the-times.co.uk), via LineOne or via Sky Sports Interactive (Sky Text page 118).

Words: Nick Szczepanik

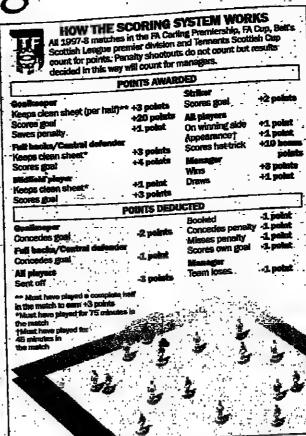


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Bergkamp his Saturday booking means missing three league games

Interactive Team Football monthly winners are announced on these pages on the first Tuesday of each month. All ITF information, news and up-to-date lists appear on hese Tuesday pages.

■ Leaving the country, tem-porarily or for a longer period? An international checkline number, +44 990 200 532, is available for catching up on the progress of a team, but faxback is not, at the moment, available for overseas callers.



FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES

The brand new Times Ferback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the TIF League and, if appropriate, your mini-league (womens, students, youth); Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 12 noon on the day following a match or matches.

shows more you have your, an edge Fire humber ready when you can. To obtain an ITF Team Faxodom, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button instead and dial the number below, ilsten carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked.

0991 111 333

This sarvice is provided by Telecom Express, Westminster Tower, London SE1 7SP.

LEAGUE UPDATES



I think I'll pass.



WOMEN'S LEAGUE

-	S Whitfield S Catchpole P Johnston L Hall H Irvine K Meek B Sharp J Bitmead D Shepard EE Hughes E Stoate S Webb L Fraser H Bonssi J Hilton	
1	J Hilton	
4	C Smith T Oswald V Penney	
g B	V Penney M. Jess	

STUDENTS' LEAGUE

	_
N Wheatley N Wheatley P Herson M Wheatley G Wilson Z Tezer D Harber I McGill N Lamb J Liversidge N Prior A Riley M Constable D Dwyer	
D Dwyer	
K Meek	
G Aitken C Mariawczak	
R Lee	

Hensonhammers
A Tight Horse Is Fun
Dog Soldiers
Ziggy Greaves XI
Supersonic City2
The White Helmets
Perfects FC

YOUTH LEAGUE

G Calderbank S Bird T Smith M Roberts C Wheaton A Umar T O'Mahoney C Mariawezak P Carter S Banileld K Stewart S Wilson
K Stewart
M Merhanps A Wood R Davidson R Alden

Calders XI Golden Wonders Up The League Fe Krystonia Three Jansen's XI Sparre

ITF LEAGUE

	111
Mr D Edbrocke J W Goody Aliison Scanlan K Rarhall S Legg Peter McDulru Mr M Jones Mr M Jones Mr M Jones D Shutter J W Goody Mr S Legg Mr M Jones D Shutter Mulcund Mr I Struttl K Rarhall J Homat S Legg Seven Adams AG Hendesth Mr S Mesath Mr M Wesath Mr S Netzen Mr N Wheath S Legg Mr M Jones Seven Adams AG Hendesth Mr TA Richard P Tansey K Farhall V Con	kand wich
Mrs D Nichols	_

Mrs D Nerous Barba Papu a la Bacon G Konner AJ Hassings H Prichard Morgan Ke A Nevistoki G Dolan

Mr D Longwo P Bec P Housen

Don 5 Best Is Still To Come

PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE

	The second second
Desn Blackwell	Wimbledon
Simon Grayson	Aston Villa
Paul Simpson	Derby County
John Satako	Coverity City Leads United
David Wetberall	Leeds United
Bloco Kyarme	Liverpool
Alf-inge Hanland	Leads United
Robert Let	Newcastle United
Rob Savage	Minister City
Kenny Cunningham	West Ham United
Steve Potts	Derby County .
Josephan Hunt	Wimbleton
Jason Euck	Coveragy City
Kyle Lightbourne	Covenity City
Richard Shaw	Newcastle United
David Seams	Arsenal
Neil Redictra	Burnsley
Tim Breacher	West Ham United
Phil Babb	Liverpool
Korin Callector	Blackburn Rovers
Pontos Kaumark	Leiconer City
Kevin Hitchcock	Chelses
Kevin Muscat	Crystal Palace
Paul Williams	Coventry Cay
John Hendrie	Saconday
Frank Lebosof	Chelson
David Tuttle	Crystal Palace
Denn Hokisworth	Wimbiedon
Graeme Le Saux	Chelses Chelses
Demis Wise	I instructed
Robbie Fowler	Liverpool Leads United
Lee Sharpe	Anton Villa
Gareth Southgate Teddy Sheringham	Mancheser United
John Berestord	Newcastle United
Robin Van Der Laan	Derby County
Gery Mabbutt	Tomenham Holspur
Lee Dixon	Arsenal
Spencer Prior	Leicester City
Chris Powell	Derby County
Andy Townsend	Maddleshrougu
Kasev Keller	Leiorster City
MICKA DOM	Leiosster City Manchester United Windhildon
STEWALT CHRISTIAN	Policebam Hocspur
John Scales	Barnsley
Andrew Liddell	Leeds United
Nigel Martys	Hackburn Rows
Colin Hendry	Everton
Dave Watson Andy Roberts	Crystal Palace
Patrick Berger	Liverpool
Darren Pitcher	Crystal Palace
Richard Jobson	Lenis United
Roger Cross	Tonenham Hossau
Anchi Sindori	Tomenham Hospe
Cary Nevice	Manchester United
State Cistins	West Hasp United
Serve Louis	Swarton
Danny Williamson	Sheidam Royert
CAN FEMALE.	

INTERNET LEAGUE

Flying Kiwis Wessloton United FC Goulou Goulou Teddybears Pinknicks

Allison Scanlan
Peter McDuirn
Mukund Mrs Sheila Borland
MIS SUCIE BOLISTIC
George Mijuskovich Barba Papa a la Bac
Ratus Labs a 15 pag
Morgan Kelly
Susan Makin
Heinang Pater
Mike Hutchinson
Mike Madden
Richard Keenan
Bruce Tradgill
Graeme Dabnor
P Bown
James Tan
0

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Call for your FREE trial of LincOne and the

Why late entrants to ITF can still scoop a big prize sports bag and two tickets.

POTENTIAL new entrants to IIF need not be daunted by the high points totals already accrued by the leaders of the main league and the four mini-leagues. While those in the leading group have a considerable head start in the quest for the ultimate £50,000 prize, a month-long hot streak could win a new entrant, or one of long standing who has not, as yet, figured among the top scorers, a prize of £1,000, a signed football, a

to a premier league game. Overall position counts for nothing in the race for the monthly prizes: none of the winners of the three minileagues for October fig-ured in the top 20 of their leagues' overall staridings. Equally, as can be seen from the tables, the points difference between positions can be very small: ten extra. points could mean a rise of at east 50 places in the higher reaches of the leagues.

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IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENTER ITF

Sports beg, and tickets to a premier league match of your choice can be won every menth, plus the nce to wie £10,000 in a separate FA Cup so enter the ITF now.

where it is in the overall ITF league. The prize simply goes to the person whose teem scores the bignest points in any one month. If you are a student or a worpen (18 or over) you may also enter the appropriate mini-league, while under-18 year olds enter the

into a separate FA Cup league. Your players will earn you po for the FA Cup league (Littlewoods FA Cup and Tennents Soc FA Cup) as well as the main ITF league.

HOW TO ENTER

0891 405 011

From the Republic of Beland only +44 990 100 308

 You must use a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone
 Choose 1 goelkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.

M Do not spend more than 35 million.

M Do not choose more than two individuals

and follow these step-by-step instructions.

a) You must tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager.

b) You will be asked whether you wish to enter one of the

ribil leagues (women's, students', youth) if appropriate. If so, do so as directed on the telephone. ers), your name, address with po

daytions belockions number.
d) Finally, you will be given a ten-digit personal indentification number (PRI) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number as you will need you FRI for making transfers.

A new town will score points on future games. 0891 calls cost 50p per minute, Your

chosen at random, in the event of there being more

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Who knows? With access to all this football information, winning the title might just become a reality.

'One FRÉE on-line entry via LineOne including all transfers. This is worth £9.

Strikers and goalkeepers may bring in high points

tallies but much depends on shrewd choices in midfield

t is significant that Asson Villa, a club which can call upon proven international defenders like Gareth Southgate and Steve Staumton, and is able to field a forward line of Stan Collymore, Savo Milosevic and Dwight Yorke, inter-nationals all, feels the need to contemplate spending over £4 million on a midfield player with a poor fitness record and an even more unpredictable disciplinary one, yet who is expected to inspire an under-achieving Villa team: a tall order, even if the name of the player in question is Paul

Gascoigne.
Yet, if the midfield, the engine-room of a team, does not function, then, in all likelihood, neither will the other compnents. Get the midfield right, and everything flows from it. Gascoigne un-derlined his own value by scoring two and creating three of Rangers' seven against Dunfermline on Saturday.

Further south, much was made of the importance of the two forwards, John Hartson and Paul Kitson, to the survival of West Ham United in last season's FA Carling Premiership. This season, however, much of the team's improvement can be credited to Eyal. Berkovic, the Israel international midfield player, formerly with Southampton.

The story, perhaps apocry-phal, goes that Graeme Souness on holiday in Israel



some years ago, had been dragged from the beach to watch a promising youngster playing in a local match, and had liked and remembered what he saw; when the chance came for Souness to sign Berkovic (for it was he) for Southampton last October, he needed no second bidding. Sourcess left The Dell over the. summer and, to the dismay of Saints fans, Berkovic, who had been signed on a one-year lease, was free to go too, and now finds himself in the East End, where he has been made welcome by supporters who have grown up on the midfield skills of Martin Peters, Trevor skills of Martin Peters, Trevor

Brooking and Alan Devonshire. Berkovic himself combines the skills of all three he
can carry the ball like Devonshire. has the vicing and the skills of all three he
can carry the ball like Devonshire. has the vicing and the skills of all three he
can carry the vicing and the skills of all three hears. shire, has the vision and day's are unlikely to be repeat-



like Peters, knows where the

goal is.
It is hardly surprising that
West Ham have already received (and rejected) one offer in the region of £4.5 million for Berkovic. ITF entrants, however, can acquire Berkovic at a relatively knock-down .£2.5 million; while they cannot benefit from the 27 points he has already accumulated, there seem certain to be plenty more points where they came from. With his every goal worth three points, a midfield player who can find the net is a valuable addition to any ITF

delivery of a Brooking and, ed if he ends up at Villa Park.



THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

MOVED

52502 David Hirst Southampton £2.5m

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your tearn. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

☐ EACH TEAM that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date has its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. All teams registered before noon that day will be allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered after noon on December 13 will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of

THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you

YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of

TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon

YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score

☐ CALLS COST 50p per minute and catis from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628. Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

		Code Rema Ferm Cost (20) Week Total	Code Name Team Cost (Cm) Wools Total
10101 J Leighton Aberdeen 2,00 8 -1	30101 B O'Nell Aberdesh 2.00 0 -11		Solid
12201 S Howle Motherwell 1.00 0 0 0 12301 S.Given Newcestie 4.00 -7 25 12401 A Gorem Rangers 5.00 8 11 12501 K Presentan Sheffield Wed 2.00 -2 -10 12701 M Taylor Southempton 0.50 0 0 0 12801 A Main St Johnstone 0.50 9 16 12801 I Welley Tottenham 3.00 1 28 12901 I Ulidoako West Ham Utd 2.00 0 7 13001 N Sulliven Wentledon 2.50 3 22 20202 M Winterburn Arsenal 3.00 4 23 20203 E Petit Arsenal 3.00 4 14 20301 S Staumton Anton Villa 3.00 -1 11 20302 A Wright Aston Villa 3.00 0 10 20303 S Grayson Aston Villa 2.50 -1 9	30804 B Lembourde Chelsee 2.50 0 -1	41401 G Speed	50802 M Hughes Cheissa 5.00 1 12 50901 D Dublin Coventry City 5.00 0 25 50902 D Huckerby Coventry City 2.50 0 12 50903 N Wheten Coventry City 2.00 0 0 51001 N Shipperley Crystal Palace 1.50 1 6 51002 D Freedman Crystal Palace 1.50 0 4 51003 B Dyer Crystal Palace 2.00 0 12 51101 D Sturridge Derby County 4.00 1 7 51103 F Balano Derby County 2.00 3 26 51104 D Burton Derby County 1.50 0 2 51207 A McLaren Dundee Utd 3.00 4 10 51202 K Olofasson Dundee Utd 2.50 4 15 51301 G Britton Dunfermilne 2.00 1
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NEWS

Blair promise not to harm EMU

Tony Blair promised Helmut Kohl that Britain would not "sabotage" a European single currency, even though it will stick with the pound for at least the next few years.

The Prime Minister told the German Chancellor at Chequers that Britain would not be entering the single currency on January 1, 1999, and he is understood to have explained the reasoning behind the expected announcement that entry cannot be contemplated during this Parliament Pages 1, 12

Government acts on gypsy influx

Emergency measures were being prepared by the Government and Kent county council to cope with the flood of Czech and Slovak Gypsies seeking political asylum in Britain. The authorities in Slovakia prepared to make television and radio appeals urging people not to travel to Britain.... Page 1, 10, 11

Murder charge

Detectives investigating the deaths of Lin Russell and her daughter Megan charged a man they have held for three months on unrelated robbery and burglary chargesPage I

Welfare studies

Nine separate studies are currently being carried out by different Government ministers and Whitehall departments into the future of the welfare state, it emerged yesterdayPage 2

Vicar accused

A music teacher accused a vicar of pursuing her for sex in a torrid affair which began when she was vulnerable and alone after the death of her son, a church court in Wales heard ___Page 3

Exam fight

A primary school descended into chaos after one group of 11-yearolds set upon a rival class over claims of cheating, an industrial tribunal was told Page 4

Energy drinks sham Many of the drinks that claim to put the fizz back into athletes were little more than expensive, sugar-laden soft drinks, the Food

Cervical smear failure

The cervical smear test programme is to be restructured after the publication of a report that details serious failings at one _____ Page 6

Diving alert

Safety inquiries which could affect the future of a national scuba diving centre have been launched after the 17th death there in 15

Literacy target eased Literacy targets for children from

the poorest performing areas were relaxed but ministers said that poverty would not excuse long-term failure _____Page 8

Earthquake fears

The Vatican sought to reassure Italians over widespread fears that the continuing Umbrian earthquakes presage a pre-millennial disaster, and possibly the end of the world Page 13 Congo rescue

French troops based in Gabon

rescued a group of French and African nationals who had been trapped by fighting in the south of Congo-Brazzaville Page 14 Peace hope wrecked

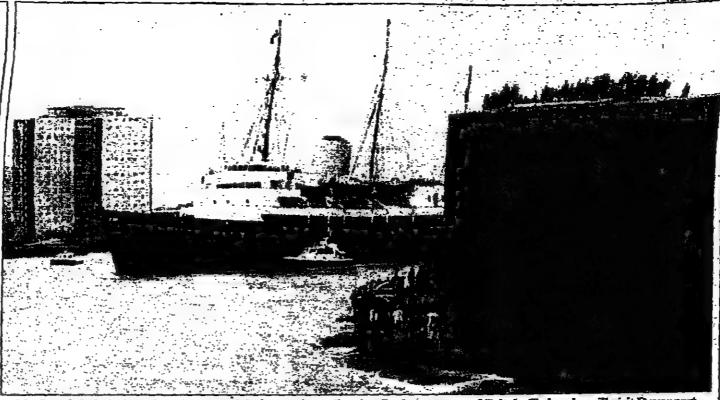
A lorry bomb that shattered the

heart of Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, last week appears to have sealed the fate of a faltering peace initiative designed to give Tamils something close to their dream of a homeland... Jiang interview

In a rare series of interviews with foreign journalists, President Jiang Zemin of China called for new co-operation between Washington and Beijing Page 16

Japanese firm can pay Britons less

■ A Japanese company was entitled to pay British staff a third of what it paid Japanese workers for doing the same job. And while three British executives with the Quick Corporation had been dismissed because of their race, it did not follow that they had been denied promotion for the same reason, the



The Royal Yacht Britannia at Portsmouth before setting sail on her final voyage round Britain. Today she will visit Devonport

lion hostile takeover bid from Hilton Hotels, has accepted a \$13.3 billion white knight offer from Motor racing: A businessman who

defrauded banks of tens of millions of pounds so he could present himself as a "major player" was jailed for three years Economy: Confusion reigned in

the City and among business leaders about the Government's single currency policy after a tangled weekend of statements and brief-

Markaise The FTSE 100 fell 60.1 to 5211.0. Sterling rose from 100.5 to 101.5 after rising from \$1.6158 to \$1.6305 and from DM2.8579 to

Rugby unlay: The owners of five of the leading clubs met in London to discuss the possibility of a breakaway league, backed by money from Benfield, the company built by Matthew HardingPage 52 Tennis: Andre Agassi, making his first competitive appearance in

Europe this year, was beaten by Todd Martin in the opening round of the Eurocard Open......Page 52 Besebalt: The Cleveland Indians drew level in the World Series after beating the Florida Marlins 6-1 in Miami in the second game of the

best-of-seven series...... Page 46 Swimming: Fina, the sport's governing body, is considering testing all the 1,000 competitors at next year's world championships in

Page 49

Big in Bilbat: Frank Gehry's sensational new Guggenheim Museum building in northern Spain explodes along a run-down waterfront area in a shimmering streak _Page 35

Compbell country: Ken Campbell's latest one-man show at the National Theatre is a rollercoaster ride through theatrical tales Page 36 Unfinished symphony: The com-poser Steve Reich has unveiled his video opera, Three Tales "Hindenburg" - or at least, the first two scenes of Act 1..... ___.Page 37

Comic cuts: The three-man team who made Shallow Grave and Trainspotting have swapped dark morbidity for romantic comedy in their next movie, A Life Less

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

The man who built

an energy-efficient

also good-looking

■ INTERFACE

The future catches up

with the past when

archaeologists dig in

with hi-tech systems

house that was

HOMES

Nigelia Lawson: Having your baby delivered by a midwife who has assisted you and will take care of you and the baby afterwards, is

entraordinary..... Fighting fit: "The charge I get from confronting what I most fear is hard to explain" - Kate Sekulese on professional boxing Page 19 Comeback bid: Jane Shilling on the Duchess of York's reconciliation with the Royals Page 19.

Schools-bashing: Are we entering an era in which American style lawsuits will become a feature of the education system? ____Page 35 Just in case. The availability of insurance to cover losses may determine the success of 'no-win, no-

Britain is leading the way in Rurope. It is the country where Scotland has obtained autonomy and where Tony Blair is holding out his hand to Gerry Adams. Britain is the country which invented the post-war welfare state but uch also invented privatisation. It is the country which created an empire and, unlike other imperial. powers, transformed its colonies into a Commonwealth. It even has the first divinity of the post-Chris-tian era in Princess Dians, who: exported the imagination of the Labour and EMU; value for money British La Stampa. Turin at Orderidae. La Stampa, Turin

Preview: Behind the scenes of The-Sport in Cutting Edge: Sex, Lies and Aliens (Channel 4, 9,00pm) Review: Joe Joseph on The Huar Wheldon Memorial Lecture by Fergal Keane, the BBC's Asia correspondent _____ Pages 50, 51

The asylum trap

What is really at issue at Dover is not the plight of this particular influx of asylum-seekers, who come from countries where Gypsies certainly suffer from discrimination but which are not otherwise tyrannies. It is the appalling mess which the European Union has made of Page 21

asylum policy.... Quadrangle quotas

The Government is entitled to ask Oxford and Cambridge to modernise if they want to maintain excep-tional funding. The Prime Minister might contemplate whether his present Education team helps or

Warbler welcome

For every uncommon bird that is spotted in a pub carpark full of twitchers, there must have been many more brought in on same the favourable winds Page 21

LIBBY PURVES

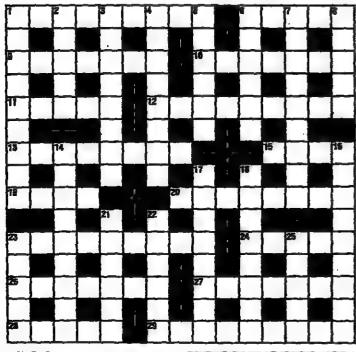
the humble 15-plus cosm gets more publicity than Edwina Currie and EMU rolled into one. On some mornings you would think GCSE had recruited Max Clifford: if it were a woman, it would be a minx in a gold mini-dress Page 20 ANATOLE KALETSKY

Instead of trapping Mr Blair into an endorsement of EMU, the Europhiles have forced from 10 stake out a policy position more sceptical than John Major was ever prepared to occupy... JOHN MONKS

The Chancellor is we learn, to make a statement to Parliament when it returns. He still has time to realfirm: the -Government's commitment to a single currency and setting out the timetable by which Britain can join Page 20

Akto Berni, restaurant owner, Sir Dayek Riches, forner Ambassador to Lebergon, Professor W. L. Edge, mainematician...

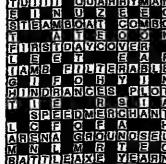
Employment Appeals Tribunal held. THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,616



- 1 Beer a perk for this person? Could
- 6 Youngster embracing popular film star? (3-2).
- 9 Lay hands on criminal joining organisation (7). 10 Sensitive time to do something
- not quite sufficient (7). 11 With style, execute work of art (5). 12 Two principals meeting precip-
- itately (9). 13 Mail-order supplier? (8).
- 15 What does one play in game of cards? (4). 19 Thrill to get out of addiction (4). 20 Awkward customers - con-
- sequently call for assistance outside (2-3-3). 23 Right to allow back into church people coming for service (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,615

24 One who's reckoned a total reptile



- 26 Confederates find shelter here
- 27 Finding a Conservative in Herts town (?). 28 Fur supplier sky about success (5).
 29 Belting out shauty, Mac is revealed as a sailor (9).

- l Withdraw support given on course (9).
- game results in arrest (3,2).

 3 Final broadcast at close of play
- 4 American help organised to fill Physical Training brochure (8). 5 Stick to beat unpleasant person up (6). 6 Condition included by fleet to end
- fighting (6).
 7 Criminal disrupted one US fair
- 8 Holy group's guide (5).

 14 Equipment New Model Army got across ravine (9).

 16 Store wrong old information for body chemical (9).
- 17 Home cover's got on sound credit 18 One new, mostly healthy, worker needed a breathing aid (3). Unit is deployed where it's sta-
- tioned (2.4).

 22 Sticky food it's not used in expedition (6).

 23 Officer in charge is a pain (5).

25 Bride is marrying partly for religious belief (5).

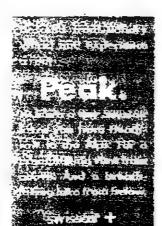
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Sun tines; Sun sets: 555 pm Landon 5.55 pm to 7.57 am Sente d 65 pm to 7.57 am Sente d 65 pm to 7.56 am Schoolyn 5.56 pm to 7.58 am





C) Generals mostly dry with surrey spelle; colder. Best surethine in Scotland affect today start. Northeast England cold and cloudy with some surstime instant. Drizzle: in West County, Cold everywhere tonight; widespread ground frost in much of Scotland and northeast England, but alsewhere treat wind will limit ground frost to sheltered snots.

II London, SE Begland, E Anglie, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Lish Republic; cool and dry with surry spells. A Iresh east wind. Max 14C (57F).

DE England, ME Bagland: cold and rather cloudy but dry with occasional sunstrine. A light to moderate east wind. Max 11C (527).

Channel blies, SW England: windy with occasional light rain. A strong to gain force east wind. Max 14C (57F).

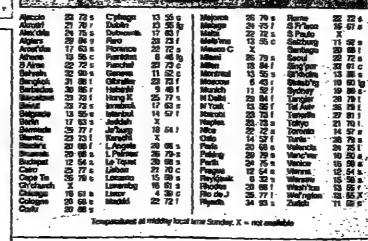
11C (48-22F).

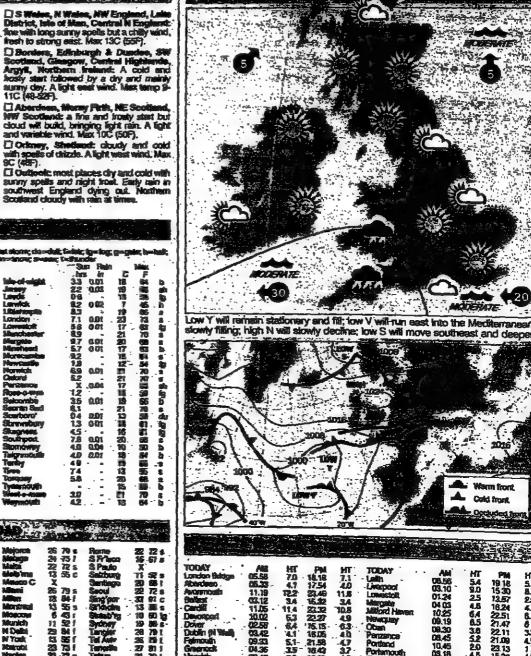
C) Aberdeen, Werey Pitth, NE Scottend, NW Scottend: a fire and irosty start but cloud will build, bringing light rain. A light and variable wind. Max 10C (50F).

C) Orkney, Shedland: abudy and cold with spells of chizzle. A light wast wind. Max 9C (48F).

C) Outlook: most places dry and cold with surny spells and night troat. Early rain in southwest England dying out. Northern Scotland cloudy with rain at times.

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INSIDE SECTION TODAY

NEW CYCLERAN



BUSINESS

Fraudsters lent £1.3m to company run by Venables PAGE 31



Leave those schools alone: the dangers of suing educators **PAGES 39-41**



SPORT

Schmeichel happy trying to keep United united **PAGES 46-52**

TELEVISION AND RADIO **PAGES** 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY OCTOBER 21 1997

Clocking on: How the FTSE 100 fared on the first day of Sets



SE survives Brown Monday test

THE Landon Stock Exchange's new electronic trad- join in the first wave in 1999. ing system survived a FISE 100 stocks, already baptism of fire yesterday, drooping, fell to 119 points after a speech from Gordon below the index's opening Brown, the Chancellor, on level as Mr Brown imished his European economic and monetary union (EMU) fall in the FTSE 100.

that Britain was unlikely to

impromptu speech. His timing was attacked by senior traders, who said they faced enough of a challenge

domestic rival, Tradepoint. FTSE 100 stocks can now be traded through the exchange

matching buyers and sellers

suspended when their prices moved 10 per cent or more. Out of a total London volume of 493 million shares. 208 million were FTSE 100 shares. Of these, 42 per cent went through the order book. comparing favourably with long-term predictions of 40 to

cantly by the end of the week. Many fund managers had been content to sit out first-day price fluctriations, he said They were also cautious of the extra time required to trade through the order book.

The Stock Exchange said the dealing spread, the difference between buy and sell Rolls-Royce fited from this narrowing

The exchange, which has already made several alterations to the system in response to requests from its members, is facing pressure to tweak the electronic trading regime further. Brokers

This would cut the cost of trading, since a buyer or seller would only be settling with one party. Under the current arrangement, a big order sitting on the order book will often be "nibbled at" by several other member firms, leadto costly multiple

Commentary, page 29 Stock market, page 30

Industry and the City confused by policy statements on euro

BY JANET BUSH AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

and briefings left both the City and industry confused about the Government's policy on a:

single European currency.

Shares and gilt-edged stocks, which made large gains three weeks ago on reports that ministers were warming towards the curb, yesterday slumped as the Government appeared to signal that Britain will not join a single currency during the lifetime of this Paritiament.

The pound railied sharply; briefly regaining all the losses incurred over the past three weeks. It closed three plennings higher at DM2.8881 and its fective index rose a full point ito 1015. Dealers predicted that gilts will fail further and that the pound will remain volatile while uncertainty persists over

EMU policy.
Ruth Lea, head of the institute of Directors policy unit, "What we have seen as

INILEVER has dipped into its £3

illion cash pile to buy Kibon, Bra-il's biggest ice cream maker, from hilip Morris for £573 million.

It is the first big acquisition by inilever since it sold its speciality

hemicals businesses to ICI in May

or E5 billion. It will give Unilever

verall leadership of the Latin

ave circulated that Unilever would

ounce on one of its rivals such as

leinz, Campbells or Reckitt &

merican ice cream market.

Ar Ever since the ICI deal, rumoins

spin doctors crushed by reality and the reality is what has happened in the markets. " She said that there was serious, concern in the markets about the mixed messages from the.

Business and financial market leaders yesterday expressed dismay at the statements on EMU. Asked whether he now un-

derstood the Government's line on EMU, a spokesman for the British Chambers of Commerce said. Do you mean based on Saturday's newspapers or Monday's?"
Barclays Bank said that

policy uncertainties are undermining business preparations for the euro. .

Grant Phillips, director of Barclays' business banking euro programme, said: "My greatest fear is that our customers will stand back from getting ready because of every-thing they have heard on the

est survey of companies that already do business with continental Europe found that 65 per cent had still done nothing to prepare for the euro and, of these, 60 per cent do not intend to prepare. That is a comment on political uncertainty." Mr Phillips said. Distain's exporters strongly

support the single currency, a new survey of 1,000 companies shows today — though with export confidence at a five-year low, they expect jobs to be lost if the pound remains high. Two thirds of exporting companies say that British participation in a single currency would be helpful to their company, according to the latest DHL quarterly export indicator. The level of support for a single currency among exporters is markedly up on even a year ago, when only just over half of exporting firms said they would wel-



Brokers phone orders as new system falters

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

RETAIL stockbrokers were thrown into confusion for the first hour of trading yesterday when two of the market-makers' automated systems failed to get off the ground on time.
Stockbrokers complained they had to resort to the telephone to buy and sell their ing a series of problems with

the trading systems of Kleinwort Benson and BZW. Stephen Pinner, managing director of Cater Deal, the execution-only stockbroker owned by Abbey National, said: "It was pandemonium, much as we feared. I had to pick up the phone for the first

time in 20 years." Another execution-broker, Sharelink, reported problems with all the market-making systems, forcing its dealers back on to the telephone for some parts of the day. The first hour was hectic and difficult. When the market is so

Martin Lambert, head of trad-

The vast majority of private client deals must be traded through four market-makers, now known as retail service providers or RSPs, because the size of the transaction is too small to be accepted by the Stock Exchange's order-driven system SETS.

Kleinwort Benson and BZW both acknowledged glitches during the first hour of trading yesterday, but stressed there were no serious problems. Although the BZW system was up on time, it could not quote several stocks for a couple of hours.

Martin Lupton, of Kleinwort Benson's equities operation, said: "The box fell really, but it was only a quirk, We were just a tad late coming up, perhaps 20 minutes or so." Despite systems hiccups in early trading, most stockbrokers said the day had gone

BUSINESS TODAY

Former Landhurst chiefs

THE former chairman and finance director of Landhurst Leasing, the luxury car finance group whose involvement in Formula One racing brought its downfall five years ago, have been jailed for three years and 18 months respectively, Last month, Ted Ball, 50,

pleaded guilty to eight counts of corruption, and David Ashworth, 45, to two counts of corruption. Yesterday at the Central Criminal Court, Judge Henry Pownall QC, said the pair had changed their pleas from not guilty "at half past the eleventh hour". He added that they had damaged the good name of the lease finance industry and breached the trust of banks that lent the group £121 million. Only £70 million of this has been recovered.

The seeds of the group's downfall came when it helped to finance the purchase of the Brabham Formula One racing team in 1990. This led Landhurst into a web of deception to hide the group's financia problems from its banks.

Ball, whose clients included Terry Venables, the former England coach, Frank Warren, the boxing promoter, and a host of sports and City celebrities, admitted corruptly accepting £420,000 in secret commissions to keep funding the Brabham team. Ashworth admitted accepting payments of E120,000.

John Snow, the former England fast bowler, a business associate of Ball's, gave character evidence, saying he ap-peared an honest citizen.

Unilever £573m expansion ITT accepts Starwood bid

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

Colman. The rumours came in spite of Niall FitzGerald, the joint chair-man, insisting that Unilever would invest its cash in emerging markets and in certain key product catego-ries, of which ice cream is one.

Kibon supplies 60 per cent of the Brazilian ice cream market. It had net sales of £204 million last year and an operating profit of £46 million. Its net asset value at the end of July was £64 million. The deal includes the acquisition of the Philip Morris share of a 50-50 joint

venture ice cream business, Sorvane, based in north east Bratil. Sorvane had total net sales of E42

Kibon's head office and main factory are in São Paulo. The business employs 2,300 people. The Latin American ice cream market is estimated to be worth £985 million and Unilever expects it to double in size over the next decade. Unilever shares rose 7p to 485p.

BY OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK AND DOMINIC WALSH mual revenues of more than \$10 ening our presence in key markets."

ITT, the hotel and gaming group-subject to an \$11 billion (£6.74 billion) hostile takeover bid from Hilton Hotels Corporation, has accepted a \$13.3 billion white knight offer from Starwood Lodging. Starwood, which recently paid

\$1.6 billion for Westin Hotels & Resorts, owns or manages 162 hotels in 24 countries. ITT owns the Sheraton chain of 424 hotels in 62 countries, including London's Sheraton Park Tower and Park Lane hotels.

The combined group; earning

billion, would dwarf its competitors. Starwood, said to be interested in buying Arcadian International, the UK hotel group, is offering \$82 per share, compared with Hilton's \$70 hare, compared with Hilton's \$70 bid, and would assume \$3.5 billion of debt. Hilton's bid would pay 50 per cent in cash, while Starwood

would pay 80 per cent in shares. Barry Sternlicht, Starwood's executive chairman, said the deal "complements our current holdings in every part of the world by strength-

board after promising to keep on the ITT directors. Steven Bollenbach, the Hilton chief executive, has branded Rand Araskog, the ITT chairman, incompetent and is intent on a management clear-out.

Mr Sternlicht won over the ITT

Starwood and ITT expect to save \$100 million a year. The deal is expected to be completed in the first quarter of next year, subject to regulatory approval. Hilton is expected to respond to the new bid shortly.

A pessimist is a person who looks both ways before crossing a one-way street,

Our fixed-rate mortgage without redemption penalties means you'll know exactly what's coming. John Charcol

eta 1931 - Il Natrodomy dian penalmos II Oliver : La rissol ar discoumed raso accungences Theodae be added to loca II Lah reservation lev. Call riss

Electronic football match tickets 'on way'

By Jason NISSE

ELECTRONIC season tickets allowing football fans to watch live Premiership matches on a pay-per-view basis could be launched within two years. Freddy Fletcher, chief executive of Newcastle United. said yesterday. Mr Fletcher said he

expected BSkyB to strike a deal with the Premier League later this season to have trials of pay-per-view. "I believe in the 1999-2000 season Sky will be offering electronic season tickets.

Mr Fletcher said. BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, the publisher of The Times, declined to comment on his remarks. It has always refused to set a timetable for the intro-duction of pay-per-view. The current BSkyB deal with the Premier League runs until 2001.

Electronic season tickets are available in Italy. However. English clubs are concerned that any pay-per-view deal should not affect live attendances. Mr Fletcher confirmed that Newcastle was in talks with BSkyB and Granuda about setting up a Newcastle United chan-

Manchester United bas set up a similar venture and BSkyB and Granada are keen to sign up another top team, believed

nel on satellite and cable

to be Liverpool. TV revenue was important to Newcastle last season, where a £1.8 million boost from the club's run in the Uefa Cup, helped operating profits to jump from £3.6 million to £8.1 million in the year ending

The group made a £1.4 million profit from transfer dealings, compared with a £27.6 military the previous year, when the club bought Alan Shearer, the England cup-

Earnings per share were 6.9p. compared with a loss of 22.6p. and there is a debut dividend of 0.5p. The club ended the year with £31.3 million of cash and is well advanced with its application to build a new \$5,000 seat stadium near the current ground at St James' Park.

□ A company set up by four cable groups has com-pleted a deal with Warner Bros International Television for non-exclusive rights to all Warner films distributed in the UK. The deal will allow the TeleWest NTL General Cable and Diamond Cable to launch a pay-per-view

AT&T, the largest US telephone group.

yesterday prepared uself for a fun-acquisition by appointing a new chief

executive. Michael Armstrong chief

executive of Hughes Electronics, needs to respond quickly to the merger plans

of MCI, which is AT&T's higgest

AT&T's prospects in the consolidat-

ing telecommunications sector have

heen flagging over the past three munths. The group missed countless

opportunities while preoccupied with

finding a successor to Robert Allen.

Analysts said the appointment could

affect the three-way merger talks be-

who is to retire on November 1.

competitor and an ally of BT.



Global ambition: Nick Land, left, of Ernst & Young, and Colin Sharman of KPMG after confirming plans to merge

EU referral will delay KPMG-E&Y merger

By ROBERT BRUCE

ERNST & YOUNG and KPMG yesterday confirmed plans to merge and become the world's largest accountan-

But the move has been referred to European Union competition authorities and, despite going forward to a partnership vote in each of the firms around the end of the year, it will be held up until next March probably. Colin Sharman of KPMG.

who would become chairman of the merged firm, said that he was "reasonably confident that we will get through the regulatory hurdles", which will involve competition authorities in Japan and America as well as Brusseis.

But Nick Land, currently

UK managing partner of Ernst & Young, said that partnerships were at a disadvantage in Europe. "The basic competition rules were not written for our type of business," he said. The rules make it harder for partnerships than companies.

Unlike the proposed merger of Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand, whose announcement last month triggered the current merger panic in the accounting world, the emphasis of the Ernst & Young and KPMG combination would be on Europe rather than America. Whereas the chairman and chief executive officer proposed for the Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand commbination

were their existing American chiefs, the head of the combined Ernst & Young and KPMG firm would be Mr Sharman, KPMG's UK senior partner, and the administrative headquarters would be in Amsterdam.

Emphasising the European dimension, Mr Sharman said that on fee income Europe was a slightly bigger market than America, while Mr Land pointed to the expectation of "a real acceleration of European cross-border activity".
But all four of the "big six"

accounting firms involved in these massive mergers are wary of any backlash from clients over the perceived loss of choice. In the UK the four firms already audit 88 of the FTSE 100 companies. Mr Sharman said that when talking to clients, chairmen and chief executive officers had understood the logic behind the merger whereas "finance directors expressed concern".

Both firms said that the real reasons, apart from trying to leaping the Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand merger into the top slot, was the cost of investing in technology. Mir Land said that "the name of the game is investment". The firms currently spend between 7 and 9 per cent of revenues on technology and technology developments.

The new organisation would have 12,800 partners worldwide and fees of \$18.3 billion (£11.25 billion).

Barclays and unions clash over support for strike

BY RICHARD MILES

BARCLAYS was forced to shut high street branches for a second time yesterday as unions threatened further industrial action in a pay dispute.

The unions clashed with Barclays over the impact of the 24-hour strike, with the bank claiming that only 176 branches failed to open for business, compared with 209 on Friday. The unions put the

figure at 300.

UNIFI, the Barclays staff federation, and the Banking Insurance & Finance Union said support had grown for strike action over a new perfor-inance-related pay scheme. They argue the scheme amounts to a pay and pensions

freeze for 25,000 workers. Bob Drake, UNIFI assis tant general-secretary, said 28,000 workers had refused to cross picket lines yesterday. However, Barclays rejected this, saying only 4,000 of its 60,000 staff failed to turn up for work. It added: "The strike is continuing to have little or no impact in most areas of the country and over 90 per cent of staff national are working

Union leaders will meet over the next week to decide whether to call for more action, which could extend to one-hour stoppages as well as further strikes. An overtime

ban is in force already.

Jim Lowe, Bifu's assistant secretary, said the dispute was picking up momentum.

"Our members see the huge." payouts Barclays are offering in the City to get rid of some people at BZW and keep others, while finding no new money for the branch staff." Support for the strike is understood to have grown after reports that Bill Harrison, the former head of BZW,

received a payoff valued at £5

through a series of "sham" transactions. He said the accu-

sations, ranging from inflated

property disposals to dubious notel sale and leaseback deals.

were simply a diversionary

tactic by current managemen

to deflect attention from their

Martin Marcus, the former

deputy chairman, added: "If Tonkin is right then

[QMH's] current manage

ment must inevitably find

the new management."

The case continues.

The state of the s

own behaviour".

Capel-Cure Myers censured by SFA

THE Securities and Futures Authority, the regulator, has officially reprimended the investment director and chief compliance officer of Capel-Cure Myers, the private client stockbroker. The action by the SFA, confirming an earlier £150,000 fine, concerns the stockbroker's management of a portion of the Mirror Group Pension Scheme. The ownership of millions of pounds of assets from the scheme became the subject of an enormous legal wrangle after Robert Maxwell,

who ran Mirror Group Newspapers, died in 1991.

CCM, and other companies involved in managing the pension money, were eventually forced to pay £32 million into the pension scheme in 1994. The SFA found that CCM's records were "practically useless for the purpose of ascertaining who had custody of what stock". It also found that: "CCM fell materially below the minimum acceptable standards in 1990-91 for internal control and ensuring compliance with the rules." Tony Pattison, investment director, was rebuked by the SFA, and Richard Nead, the compliance officer, was reprimanded. Both are still with the company.

NDS computer trials

NDS, the satellite technology group, has begun trials of broadcasting vast amounts of data to personal computers 1,000 times faster than telephone modems. If the tests, which include delivery of data from The Times, are successful, NDS technology is expected to be an integral part of the 200-channel digital service due to be launched next spring by British Sky Broadcasting, NDS, is a subsidiary of News Corporation, whose News International publishes The Times.

France Télécom floats

FRANCE TELECOM shares soared on their debuts in Paris and New York and immediately earned the telecommunica-tions group the rank of biggest French company by market value. The shares opened in Paris at Fr215 (£22), compared with an issue price for institutional investors of Fr187 and for retail investors of Pri32. The sale of the Government's 23 per cent stake is France's largest stock market flotation. On Wall. Street, France Télécom's shares started at \$347/17.

Budgens eyes expansion

BUDGENS, the high street supermarkets business, is set to buy the British franchise for the 7-Eleven convenience store chain from the current holder. Jardine Matheson. The purchase of the 58 stores would constitute a major expansion for Budgens, which is based in the south of England. Budgens, which celebrates its 125th anniversary this year, has 110 stores of its own, as well as 11 forecourt operations at

Diller in \$4bn TV deal

BP and Q8 petrol stations.

BARRY DILLER, the American entertainment mogul who ploneered 24-hour TV home shopping, has bought the television operations of Universal Studies for \$4 billion (£2.45 billion). Mr Diller's Home Shopping Network will combine its operations with Universal's USA Network and Sci-Fl Network, and change its name to USA Networks. The deal comes a month after Seagram, Universal's parent company, took sole control of USA Network in a \$1.7 billion buyout of its parmer, Viscom.

Halma issues warning

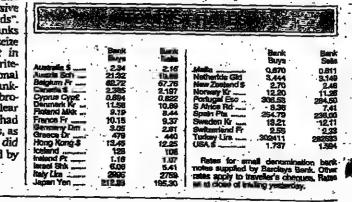
SHARES in Haima slipped 82 p, to 129p, yesterday after the safety and environmental technology group gave warning that sluggish demand in water and gas detection markets and the strength of sterling continued to hit its businesses. Haima said it would close two or three of its poorly performing, smaller subsidiaries before Christmas, leading to a El million one-off hit at the year-end. It added that it expects to take a £2 million hit from sterling in its interim results.

IBT increases NAV

THE International Biotechnology Trust increased its net asset value by 13.5 per cent, to 127.17p, in the year to end August, and sald its equity investments had achieved a weighted annual rate of return of 23.5 per cent. IBT's investments over the last year or so include 53.5 million in Core Group and 54.4 million in Biocompatibiles international. It doubled its money on its first divestment, the \$14.8 million (£9.1 million) sale of its stake

Owen cuts its loss

OWEN & ROBINSON, the Capolito Roma fashion and Foothold sports footwear retailer, has cut its half-year loss from £2.5 million to £602,000. The loss was mainly because of clearance of slow-moving stock at Foothold, which saw a 20 per cent drop in like for like sales. Turnover in the half year to August 16 slipped from £11.9 million to £11.6 million. The loss per share eased to 0.44p (3.37p loss). The company, which is to be renamed Cadoro, is not paying an interim dividend.



RJB's leading negotiator dies

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

RJB'S key negotiator in the crucial contract talks with the electricity generators died sud-

Paul Kerry, 49, died at his home near Retford in Notting-hamshire after apparently sulfering a heart attack.

Richard Budge, chief execurive, heads the negoriations with the electricity generators that will effectively dictate how much of the coal industry survives after the end of government arrangements for

coal sales next March. Mr Kerry, who used to work for British Coal, led the day-today wrangles with the three main generators, handling the

vital differences between the coul industry and generators over price and volume. Mr Kerry's death comes as

the talks reach a critical stage amid warnings that up to ten pits may close if the Government refuses to offer support to the industry. The talks are the first to be held between the electricity generators and the coal industry since both were put into private hands. A spokesman for RJB said

Mr Kerry would be greatly missed, saying: "He was a great enthusiast for the coal industry." It was too early to say who would now direct the

shake-up of fund range

M&G, one of the oldest fund managers, has writ-ten to 250,000 investors to detail a shake-up of its fund range (Gavin Lumsden writes).

M&G is to focus on growth blue chip stocks alongside small and medium-sized companies. Criticisms that its funds, which have performed badly in the past three years, were all the same, have led M&G to merge two trusts and change the objectives of six others.

In the biggest change its Extra Yield unit trust is to be renamed Extra Income and merged with the Equity Income fund to create a £923 million unit trust.

M&G details QMH writedown was 'big mistake'

lion esset writedown at Queens Moat Houses, the debt-laden hotel group, was "possibly the worst mis-state-ment in British accounting history", the High Court was told yesterday.

In a written submission,

BY DOMINIC WALSH reconstructed the 1992 figures. THE controversial £922 mil-

which showed total losses of £1.04 billion, to show a £97 million profit. A similar "stripping-out" exercise by an expert acting for QMH produced a Opening his case, Mr Bairstow rejected allegations that he had falsified profits

David Tonkin, a forensic accountant, said the revaluation for the 1992 accounts conducted by Jones Lang Wootton, the chartered surveyors, was a colossal mistake". Dr Tonkin, acting for John

Bairstow, the former QMH chairman who, with three other former directors, is suing for unfair dismissal, has



New AT&T chief may upset BT plan

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

moven BT-MCI and GTE, which made a \$25 billium bid for MCl last week. CTE may start merger talks with AT&T if a \$30 billion bid by World-Com for MCI looks likely to succeed. Previous merger talks between GTE and AT&T stalled after Mr Allen announced his retirement. One analyst said: "MCI and BT executives will fear Armstrong a lot more than World-Com's boss. Bernie Ebbers. Armstrong could break up the GTE-MCI-BT alliance with a big offer to GTE."

Mr Armstrong, 59, is known as an angressive, nimble-footed deal-maker. He rapidly transformed Hughes from one of America's premier defence companies into a powerhouse in the satellite television sector. He sold its entire defence business to Raytheon for

\$9.5 billion soon after arriving in 1992. AT&T hailed Mr Armstrong as "a leader with exceptional technological vision and a good understanding of the forces transforming the communica-tions services industry". John Zeglis, 50, was appointed president, to be groomed as an eventual successor.

Mr Armstrong had been considered for AT&T's top job before. He was interviewed last year about becoming president and future chief executive, but he declined because Mr Allen made no commitment to stepping down.

Armstrong: admired as deal-maker

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but it does not want to be left

floundering in the dark trying to

divine what Government policy

may be. In recent weeks the

outpourings - some public,

move into EMU during this

Parliament, it needs to be spoken out clearly and without a follow-

up call from a spin doctor explaining just what this means. The Chancellor is perfectly capable of making himself understood on this issue and any

other. After this latest fiasco, he

may feel that his special advisers

need reining in a little, or

was required.

ing, is magnified.

A hit the City yesterday. A surfeit of spinning had the mevitable effect: confusion and consternation reigned. The Stock -Exchange had already bravely chosen to ignore the omens and launch its new electronic order book on the tenth anniversary of Black Monday, but the Government contrived to heighten the tensions by providing a back-

drop of near chaos. The system survived remarkably well. By the close of play, the credibility rating of Gavin Casey and his team at the Stock Exchange was somewhat higher than that of Chancellor Gordon Brown and his boys.

The electronic order book did all that it was supposed to do, most of the glitches having been ironed out during the series of colourful dress rehearsals that preceded yesterday's grand opening. The Government's spin doctors do not have the houry of a dress rehearsal: their words have real and immediate effects. After fanning the uncertainties of yesterday perhaps they will now realise the need for a careful study of the script before they rush into action.

For business and the City one of the moment is the relationship between Britain and the rest of Europe and, in particular, the single currency. Despite the vocal demands of a few, the business world is not committed en masse to Britain joining EMU

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Spinning out of control

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many more private — have served merely to leave un-certainty where clarity was what perhaps they should all at least agree on the script in advance.
The recent television documentaries on Mr Brown and his close knit team of special advisers stimmed some viewers with its insight into the world of spin.

When several voices speak, the message can be muddled. When the voices are unattributable if not anonymous, the scope for misinterpretation, if not mislead-The country needs to be clear But spin does not just influence the media. What has been made about the Government's stance on EMU. "Wait and see" was a patently clear in recent days is defendable position, but nods and winks suggesting that there the effect that spin has on the markets and on the wider busi-ness world. The Government was a determination not to wait very long destroyed the intellec-tual argument behind it and must take note, and take care. necessitated the spelling out of a time scale. If the line now is definitely that there will be no

Six into three is the wrong bean count

enior accountants surely realise that the music has to stop soon in their mega-merger game. None wants to be left at a competitive disadvantage when that happens and all seem to define that by size.

Merging Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse to form an international firm with 8,500

partners looked bizarre enough, when Goldman Sachs manages with fewer than 200. Now KPMG and Ernst & Young aim to bolt together a business with 11,700 partners and 163,000 workers. If their logic holds, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, stranded at the bottom of the premier league, would presumably need to leaping the lot by embracing Arthur Andersen, now world number one.

Not by accident, the timing of the KPMG/E&Y response puts this issue in the spotlight. The virtues of one merger or another are scarcely the point. The key question that customers, investors and competition authorities need to ask is whether it is reasonable to have only three accountancy firms that can offer a full service internationally, instead of six today and eight not so long ago.

Will corporate customers'

choice be improved by the extra resources three mega-firms can

supply, or cut by having only two alternatives to the present auditor or adviser? Will hourly charges for accountancy part ners fall because of lower costs or rise because they have managed to get rid of the competition they complained so bitterly about a few years ago? Will the usefulness and probity of company accounts be enhanced by standardisation or become stuck at a level of mediocrity tacitly agreed

by the triumvirate? Clearly, there would not be enough independent firms left to advise all the main parties to a complex deal. In many contract negotiations, financings, receiverships or mergers, customers would have no choice at all. The doctrine of conflicts of interest would finally have to be swept away in favour of new sets of portable Chinese walls within the palaces of the Big Three.

Europe's erratic competition authorities and America's antitrust lawyers need to turn their

gaze from more politically interesting mergers and focus on accountancy. Perhaps the most compelling case to stop all mergers between the Big Six is that new entry to this charmed circle appears virtually impossible. Smaller firms cannot challenge the Big Six. They should not be asked to save us from the dominant rule of a Big Three

Dangers on the Delphic route

t would not need one of the world's major accounting firms to calculate that there are more efficient ways of raising capital than that employed by Delphi, which has just had to part with a tenth of its new cash

in the form of fees.
Yet John Bridgeman, the
Director-General of Fair Trading, is still apparently wedded to encouraging companies to follow the Delphic route instead of the traditional British rights issue. He has apparently made clear to City institutions his intention of referring the issue of underwriting fees to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission next month unless something radical can change his mind.

Delphi alone would not be enough to dissuade him from making the MMC reference. But last week's revolutionary rights issue by Schroders on behalf of housing group Berkeley should already have made him rethink

his position. The City has moved to address the problems that he originally highlighted and it would be stubborn bordering on pig-headed for him to determinedly press on with a

reference now reference now.

He might be doing British business a bigger favour if he took a look at how our competition policy links in with that of Europe, where a raft of decisions now waits on the deliberations of the Commissioner, Karel Van Miert, P&O is still to learn whether it may proceed with its link with Stena, after almost a year of paralysing indecision.

Costly yen

AS many eyebrows have been raised over Nomura's generosity in buying William Hill and Inntrepreneur as were hoisted over prices paid for top City sites by Japanese developers. So let's hope Nomura fares better than Kumigai Gumi, the top 1980s enthusiast. It has taken a £1.23 billion extraordinary loss to restructure its overseas property portfolio, including a £770 mil-lion loss on sales of 18 properties, four of them in Britain. Ah so.

. Hambros set to review bank future

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HAMBROS, one of Britain's earlier reports, the bank said few remaining independent merchant banks, could be broken up after mulitming sterday the appointment of Schroders to advise on its

future strategy.

Schroders has been given a brief to look at all options for the bank, including the possibility of spinning off its estate agency arm. Hambro Countrywide, and the loss adjuster. Hambro Insurance Services.

The review comes after pressure from institutional investors disappointed by the bank's performance. Since 1994 Hambros shares have fallen from 471p to around 270°2p yesterday Regent Pa-cific, the Hong Kong-based fund manager and the most vociferous rebel investor, last week lifted its 3.5 per cent stake in Hambros to above 4

Hambros said yesterday that it was "ruling nothing in,. and nothing out, including retaining the current composition of the group. Contrary to

Schroders' recommendations were unlikely to be disclosed when it announces its interim figures in mid-November.

have held informal discussions with a number of firms interested in buying all or part of Hambros. However, the holding company of San Paolo Bank, the largest shareholder, with 16.6 per cent, denied speculation that it would launch a bid for the group.

In September, Fighers Inter-national, a loss-adjusting firm, made a cash and share offer of 129 per share for Hambro Insurance Services which is 51 per cent owned by the bank, but was rebuffed. Since then, Hambro Insur-since from the rises from just over 80p to more than £1.

Guardian Royal Exchange. of Hambros, refused to say buying part of the bank.

S&N unveils brewing shake-up

BY DOMINIC WALRE

to run TI By PAUL DURMAN

SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE vesterday unveiled a management shake up of its brewing division after the integration of Courage, which was acquired two years ago. Guy Dickson, head of Scot-

tish Courage, is to continue as chairman, with Graham Ken-drick, managing director of Courage, becoming divisional managing director. John Gore, head of brewing, is to lose his job in the reshuffle.

of Robin Alexander, manag ing director, off-trade: John Durismore, managing director, on-trade, Tom Ward, head of brewing and logistics; and Collin Wood, marketing director will report to Mr Kendrick.

Renegotiating the contract supply its beer to Inntrepreneur will be its big-

American appointed

and acrospace engineering company, has appointed Bill Laule to succeed Sir Christowhose other members will be Mr Laule and Martin Angle, TI's finance director.

Mr laule, an engineering

TI GROUP, the automotive

pher Lewinton as chief executive. Mr Laule, who is 49 and was born in Ohio, joined TI four years ago as president of the North American arm of Bundy, which makes systems to carry brake fluid and fuel. came TI's chief executive in 1986. To ensure continuity, he will chair a new committee,

graduate who spent 15 years with Rockwell International said that key issues for II would be finding the right

Usborne considers special dividend

By Fraser Nelson USBORNE, the farming ser-

vices company chaired by Lord Parkinson, could pay a special dividend to shareholders after failing to identify an acquisi-tion to expand its core business. The company, which now

imports and mixes fertiliser, has £6.37 million in the bank after selling other divisions, but neither Lord Parkinson. who is also chairman of the Conservative Party, nor John Aiken its finance director, have been able to find anything to spend it on.

Mr Aiken said the company rould spend no more than fi million on its Southampton emliser factory, and would with money for ever and a day. We have no timetable, but I would not like to be sitting here if nothing had happened in a year."

Pre-tax profits fell to £16,000 from £1.12 million in the year to June 30 after a £951,000 goodwill write-off. A tax rebate of £49,000 left earnings at 0.15p (2.59p).

David Thompson, founder of Hillsdown Holdings, owns 74.8 per cent of Usborne but has passed on the lp dividend proposed for the past financial year. If he passes on a special payout, the remaining 25.2 per cent of shareholders will share

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'Brown Monday' fails to test new-style trading

Monday", perhaps reflecting a few lingering worries that coincided with the tenth anniversary of the "Black Mon-

An opening fall of 119 points may have convinced passing observers that the much talked about crash was under way, in fact, the early shakeout had more to do with the City's displeasure at the Government's muddled approach to a single European currency.

In the event, the FTSE 100 index managed to halve earli-er losses, aided by a steadier start to trading on Wall Street. The index in Landon eventually closed 60.1 down, at 5,211.0

However, as government securities tumbled £4 and the pound raced up against the German mark, City investors were heading for the exit, leav-ing traders to fend for

So it was perhaps not the best day to introduce the new computerised trading system. SETS, which matches buyers with sellers among the top 100 companies and effectively does away with the middle

The last thing brokers wanted to do yesterday was to trade in shares. By the close, a token 493 million shares had changed hands.

The Stock Exchange said that the system had "got off to a sound start", with around 88 million shares going through the new order book. The spreads (the difference between bid and offer) had narrowed sharply compared with the old quoted system.

Most brokers will probably reserve judgment until the system is tested by a normal day's dealing - double the turnover seen yesterday.

BAT Industries found inyour with UBS, the broker, over its plans to demerge its financial services arm with Zurich and find a seperate quote for the tobbaco arm. The shares rose 4p. to 589p.

Banks were a weak market. with NatWest Bank falling 19½ p, to 953p, as the Dutch bank ABN Amro became the latest suitor to deny interest in its investment banking arm. Barclays, which has put part of its BZW investment banking operation up for sale, fell 47p, to £16.28. There were also losses for HSBC, down 43p, to £19.16, reflecting losses overnight in the Far East. Abbey National, down 13p to 977 2p.



Neville Simms, chief executive of Tarmac, up 3 p to 129p

76812 p. and Woolwich, 134 p off at 30734p.

in BICC showed signs of retreated 34p, to 1924p. Last week there was talk of a possible bid emerging for the company and suggestions that it was planning to dispose of its Balfour Beatty subsidiary.

TI Group fell 912 p. to 622p.

after last week's profit downgrading by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker.

Siebe slipped 6p, to £12.52. Tarmac rose 3½p, to 129p. Goldman Sachs has raised its view from "market performer" to "trading buy". It has set a target range for the shares of

GKN fell 35p, to £13.97, and

135p to 162p.
High-flying Pizza Express



THE water companies stood out in a falling marker with selected gains arrid claims that a number of them are contemplating share buy-backs and special dividends.

Wessex led the way with while United Utilities put on 3p at 749p, after briefly touching 758p. Yorkshire Water also put on 24p to 488 2p and Anglian Water lp to 819p.

Brokers said institutional investors were confident that at least three of them. Yorkshire, Wessex and Anshare buy-backs or extra dividend payments along with their interim results due out next month.

One broker said recent speculation had been intensified by stock shortages. SBC Warburg, the South West Water, steady at 877p, are the water companies most likely to return value to share-

But Credit Lyonnais Laing says it is unlikely these companies will make decision until after the Green Paper Budget in 852½p, after the dispo shares by directors.

The strongest bull n this century has not been to everyone. Shares in I & Southern, the depar stores group, are lower unchanged at 3p, than in to rescue the comp couple of years back. This spite of the group now e ing and making money.

Peel Holdings, the p developer, dropped 675p after John Whit chairman, put paid to n that it may receive a bi described talk of a takeo "absolute nonsense". His family controls 55 per cent of the shares and have even thought about buying some of them

The Chelsea Village chairman. Ken Bates, has scuppered a weekend report claiming he might sell or grant an option on his 19 per cent stake. He said he intended to see development of Stamford Bridge "through to its conclusion" and beyond.

The price slipped ip, to 109p.

Mersey Docks hardened 20p, to 4532 p, hopeful that the long dispute with workforce may soon end. GILT-EDGED: The short end bore the brunt of news that Britain's entry into a

single European currency is likely to be delayed five years. Yields rose sharply as prices retreated across the board in early trading. Most losses were halved by the close, after a late rally. In futures, the December

long gilt fell £4 to E1185/16 in a busy day's trading that saw the total number of contracts surge to 145,000.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 shed £9/16 to £1154. Among shorter-dated issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 eased WALL STREET: American stocks rose in a broad

recovery from last week's sharp self-off, which was triggered by a batch of earnings disappointments. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 16.46, to 7863.49. The Nasdaq market fell

after the US Justice Depart ment sought a \$1 million a day contempt fine against Microsoft A federal court has been asked to hold the software giant in contempt for requiring a personal computer manufacturer to license and distribute its Internet browser.

	MAJOR INDICES	
	New York (midday): Dow Janes 7803.49 (+16.46) S&P Composite 948.54 (+1.58)	
	Tokyo: Nilskei Average 17294.51 (-183,91)	
•	Hong Kong Hang Seng	
	Amsterdam: EOE index	1
	Sydney: 2639.4 (-6.2)	- 3
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	Singapore Straits1794.92 -32.47]	1
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Cambury Investment	rs 25		
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1 S Solutions	1475		
Latchways (155)	1714	- 3	
Marabrossia	965	+ 4	
NSB Retail Sys	170%	+ 3	
Northern Rock	4895	- 8	
Nortingham Porest	24	- 1	
SHL Group	2774		
Solitaire	1901 ₂		
Xaur	1125	- 1	

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Dawn Til Dusk n/p 40	
Premier Asset Mgt n/p 14	
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Boosey Hwks 750p (+25p)
Samsbury J, 476p (±10°29) Dixons Gp 694p (±14°sp)
Biocomps inti 545p (+10p) Street Disc. 705p (+12to)
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Closing Prices Page 33

Brokers' bounty

AMERICAN-STYLE underwriting could be a boon for boutique merchant banks. Anyone doubting this proposition should look at the example of Delphi, a computer services company that is proposing to raise equity capital in the United States at a cost of more than £10 for every £100 raised. In pursuit of this exercise of doubtful value, it has succeeded in alienating its largest institutional shareholder. The ADR issue will ride roughshod over pre-emption rights, sacred to UK fund managers; to add insult to injury, the underwriting of the cash call will cost 7 per cent, more than three times the equivalent

commission for a British rights issue.
This is bad news for small companies — the OFT is apparently enamoured of the US practice

becomes the norm in the UK. While FISE stocks and fashionable companies may well negotiate better commission rates, the average smaller firm will pay huge fees to intermediaries to secure access to capital. Anecdotal evidence suggests this is already. happening, with some brokers charging as much as 5 per cent to raise a few million for small companies. Bad news for corporates but potentially profitable for corporate financiers. In the brave new world of American underwriting. Goldman Sachs. Morgan Stan-ley and possibly Schroders will squabble over £500 million offerings but £5 million placings will be left to the likes of Close Brothers and Guinness Mahon, whose lower overheads can justify such small deals. And if commisof book-building — who will have to pay sious of 7 per cent become the norm, it through the nose for equity if book-building profitability of the boutiques will blossom. sions of 7 per cent become the norm, the

is in the wings for Hambro

Insurance but a more equita-

bie route would be for Ham-

bros to pay a dividend of

shares in Countrywide and Insurance Extracting value

from the bank is more diffi-

cult. Lean, imaginative mer-

chant bank boutiques have a

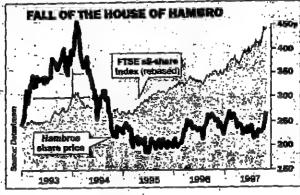
role but there is the little

problem of getting rid of the Hambres board.

Hambros

THE first job facing Schroders, which has the unenviable task of dreaming up a strategy for Hambros, is to persuade the Hambros board to put a red pen through the book value of the bank. As recently as last March. Hambros proudly recorded that the bank had net assets of £292 million. However, the share market remains unconvinced. Hambros ordinary and oreference shares have an aggregate value of about £620 million. From that, deduct about £220 nillion for its shareholding in Hambro Countrywide, another £35 million for the stake in Hambro Insurance Services and El20 million for the unquoted investments and you are left with a bank valued

at £250 million. Even that figure looks gen-erous given the less than sparkling performance of the



Unilever

WITH the potential to raise £10 billion for the right deal, Unilever could make a big spiesh, buying a brand such as Heinz or Campbell's In-stead, it is spending £570 million on a Brazilian icecream business and shareholders should be grateful. Kibon, the market leader in Brazil, is unknown outside the South American market and buried within the Philip Morris corporation. But the purchase fits neatly with Unilever's stated strategy, to expand core buisnesses in

growth markets. Unilever is paying a full \$204 million of sales and an operating profit of \$46 million. lendership, ahead of rival Nestle — and that does not come cheap. With the large US and European food conglom erates busily re-shaping their portfolios, there should be more opportunities for Unilever to buy and sell local

brand leaders. The big. multi-billion deal for a Heinz, paying a huge premium for international name is as unlikely as it ever was, and Unilever is all the better for

Gen Acc.

GA hopes to save £33 million annually from Canadian General. Yer the City re-mained sceptical. Despite a detailed breakdown, analysts believe the benefits of the deal will take longer than a single year to come through. The predicted 5 per cent earnings uplift by 1999 looks

bank From all the money

tied up in banking. Ham-

bros earned a pre-tax profit

of just El million last year.

Such rates of return suggest

that shareholders might find

better uses for their money

than an investment in Ham-

difficulty in selling the two quoted subsidiaries; a buyer

Schroders would have no

deal is to steal a march on rivals in Canada. The move will enhance its market share and cut its costs in a region which is just beginning to show the same worrying characteristics of overcrowding and competitiveness that already dogs GA's UK-based

The Canadian insurance

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AMP inc AME Curp AT J T Abbut tale; Advanced Misro Assumed Life Altrust Cursts Altrust Cursts Altrust Cursts Altrust Altrusts Altrust States

market is still relatively frag-mented, but there is already evidence of downward pressure on tales.

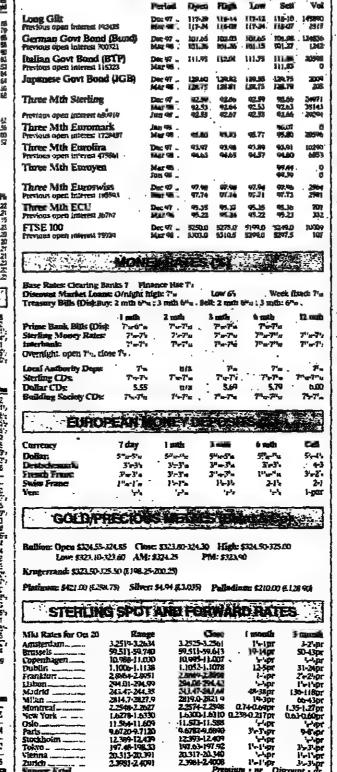
Some in the City reckon that GA has overpaid, but its track record on finding the right price for an acquisition is good. It is universally regarded as having snapped up Provident Mutual on the cheap in 1996, and that purchase has already contributed a steady stream of earnings.

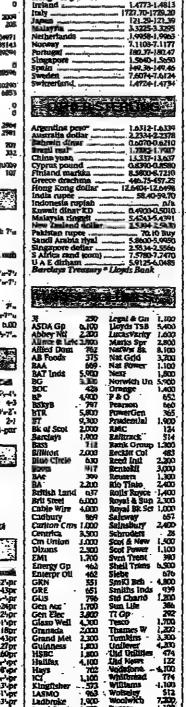
Yesterday's deal is still small for a group as large as GA and some of the share's lackiustre response can be put down to City disappointment that a bigger deal, per-Provident Mutual, was not being announced. But prices of life companies in the UK are still high, and the Canadian deal is a useful way for management to enhance earnings while waiting for further consolidation in the United Kingdom.

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THE CONTRACT OF MANAGED

Beat of the numbers drum grows louder

bunch, but if they were the winebars would be packed with bean-counters sobbing into their spritzers. A decade ago, the profession was replete with names rich in history, among them Peat Marwick McLintock, Arthur Young, and Deloitte Haskins + Sells. The latest batch of mega-mergers distances firms still further from their roots, and has worrying implications for

The intended link-up of KPMG. headed in the UK by Colin Sharman, and Ernst & Young, ironted by the affable Nick Land, steals much of the thunder from Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse, which announced their own merger last month. Both sets of firms are beating the same drum; stressing the huge savings to be made in creating a new audit programme, or building operations from scratch in somewhere like China, KPMG puts the cost of opening in China at \$20 million (£12.25 million) a year for ten years. All the better if done by one firm rather than two

Ian Brindle, UK senior partner of Price Waterhouse, rammed home the message to his own staff recently. Asmulti-national companies moved in to previously closed economies such as China and Russia, so the demand for a wide range of financial services would grow. This would require massive investment in people and infrastructure. Combining PW and

Jon Ashworth discovers strongly opposing reactions to the · merger mania consuming the UK accountancy profession

ment pool, and prevent needless duplication of investment in develop-

Not everyone is convinced. Finance directors privately express concern around", and are worried about potential conflicts of interest. A Survey of finance directors after PW/Coopers broke showed that only 26 per cent were in favour, while 45

6 As our clients expand into new markets they expect us to have global abilities 2

– Philip Laskawy, Colin Sharman

per cent thought it should be stopped by competition authorities.

Philip Laskawy, international chamman of Ernst & Young, and Mr Sharman, international chairman of KPMG, said in a joint statement yesterday: "As our clients expand into than in terms of the commercial

new markets they expect us to have the global abilities and resources to provide them with the specialist services they need. We will now have significantly more service capabilities and people in the key industry segments, functional areas and geographic markets." Reaction was mixed Chris

Swinson, senior partner of BDO Stoy Hayward, and deputy president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), said the mergers reflected a contradiction within the market The market is exhibiting two contradictory forces. On the one hand, the market is seeking global firms to provide global responsiveness," he said. "On the other hand, one has conflicts of interest and lack of choice. But the two of them both come from the market."

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) was openly critical of the KPMG/E&Y deal. Anthea Rose, the ACCA chief executive, said: This is a disturbing trend. Choice would already be limited by last month's merger proposal. This new development would further restrict the supply of services to four major operators. It is hard to see how this initiative can be justified other

survival of the practices concerned." It was all so much simpler in the days of the Big Eight. The landscape began to shift in January 1987 when Peat Marwick Mitchell, then number one in the UK league table, merged with Thomson McLintock, trailing at number ten. Four months later the enlarged Peat Marwick International (PMI) duly merged with Klynveld Main Goerdeler (KMG), a Dutch-

هكذامن رلإمل

6 This is a disturbing trend. Choice would already be limited by last month's merger proposal 🤊

- Anthea Rose of ACCA

German firm, to create KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock. KMG was strong in mainland Europe. PMI's strengths lay in the UK and America. The name was shortened two years ago to KPMG.
The exception is the US firm, which

practises as KPMG Peat Marwick LLP. Image consultants have been appointed to find a name for the enlarged KPMG/Ernst & Young One possibility being flagged is KEY

as in K and E&Y — but as one insider observed: "We have yet to do the research. For all we know, KEY in Serbo-Croat could mean 'drunken buffoon"."

The pace of change stepped up in 1989 when Touche Ross in the US merged with the US firm of Deloitte Haskins + Sells. In the UK, the two firms held talks, but Deloitte subsequently merged with Coopers & Lybrand. The renamed Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte later dropped Deloitte from the title. Also in 1989. Ernst & Whinney merged with Arthur Young, completing the move from Big Eight to Big Six. And hence to the Big Four. The big

question is what happens to Arthur Andersen, distracted by its own leadership problems, but hugely dominant in many fields nonetheless. and Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, represented in the UK by Deloitte & Touche (formerly Touche Ross). Deloitte would not comment publicly yesterday, but is understood to have held preliminary merger discussions with Ernst & Young (as Andersen did with Price Waterhouse in 1989.) It was decided that such a link would not be in the best interests of clients. Whether Touche can stick to this

"independence" line while all around scramble for position remains to be

instead, Landhurst merely

providing the money to pay off

the old ones, and the banks

were none the wiser. Mean-

while, Nursey and McCor-

mack were making secret cash payments to Ball and Ash-

worth, in the form of suitcases

and brown envelopes packed

with money handed over to the

fraudsters at locations such as

the Gatwick Airport Hilton and Scratchwood service sta-

could not be refinanced

Ashworth admitted the prob-

lem to Guinness Mahon. The

bank's syndicate at that point

had lent the group £121 million

The merchant bankers asked

Arthur Andersen, the accoun-

tancy firm, to investigate. It

found that Landhurst was a

can of worms. Some leases were written on machinery that

did not appear to exist, some on

machinery not worth the money and some on cars that

were no better than rubble. At

the same time there was a

collapse in the classic car market. Landhurst went into

receivership in August 1992

and the SFO started its investi-

Five years on and the SFO is

gation that October.

is the same Mohamed Al Fayed who.

when spotted earlier this year walk-

ing round the Chelsea Village site, was asked about his interest in the

company. "I understand Ashraf Marwan (a former business associate

of Fayed) is a shareholder in the com-

pany," said Mr Fayed's ever-loyal sidekick, Michael Cole, at the time.

"Mr Al Fayed would never invest in 2

company associated with Mr Marwan." Ah, truth is such a rare

JASON NISSÉ

his merry-go-round

continued for two years until in April 1992, one of the leases

tion on the ML

said why are me at home? Why are so many com-panies in-

truding upon my personal life?" People are also worried that companies know far too much about them. Any

booked a train or theatre ticket with a credit card is accustomed to the person at the other end of the phone line knowing

feel that they, not the com-

changes," he says. So what has changed to

make people feel this way? FCB's research indicates that the death of Diana,

Intrusive firms upset customers

panies are jeopardising their relationships with customers by bombarding them with unwanted marketing cam-paigns. Even Marks & Spencer, which prides itself on understanding its customers, has fallen into the trap.

ings from the ongoing "mood of the nation" research project by FCB, the advertising agency. In a typical response, one woman said: "I like M&S. I shop there all the time, but if I get one more letter asking me if I want to sign up for their financial services I will boycott them."

These are the latest find-

Such a reaction may sound extreme, but the public has become weary of companies intruding on their personal lives. Another typical re-

sponse was this complaint about BT. "I had a phone call from BT at 8pm asking if I wanted to join their friends and family

details such as their home

According to Mark Hartstone, FCB's head of planning, we are about to experience a similar backlash to that seen in the US. "Many people are begin-ning to feel uncomfortable with technology. It is not threatening them." He maintains that a cardinal marketing rule is being broken. Customers must always

pany, are in control. Interestingly, the most technologically innovative innovative is seen as empowering customers. "If I'm using the Internet at home at 8pm and see something I want to buy, that's my choice. I feel empowered. But if that same company phones me up at 8pm, the power balance

Princess of Wales, has played a key role. People feel angry that she was hounded by the paparazzi and it has made them realise that they are in danger of losing control over their lives.

Mr Hartstone says: "These feelings were not inspired by Princess Diana's death, they have been bub-bling up for some time. Her death has made people ques-tion the morality of some-one, be it a photographer or a company, intruding upon their lives."

While this sentiment has clear implications for intru-sive marketing techniques such as phone marketing, it may also change the power balance between companies may decide that business should take a more passive role, allowing them to decide which companies should be allowed access. This may lead to the intro-

> duction of information-gatherpanies to scour the market place for us. should customers go to four different manu-

> > facturers

WHATE & DEW car? If there termediary

could arrange for a selection of cars to be driven round to the customer's house," Mr Hartstone says.

The method could also be applied to other industries,

for example, travel. If you want to go on holiday and do not have time to phone or visit the travel agent, an intermediary company could find the holiday. This use of middlemer

has been useful in the US housing market where buyers give their requirements

to a property agent.

But why should people pay for something that they now get free? Since the end of the recession people have become more willing to pay for quality and good service. time more than before. In the Eightles the buzz-

word was 24-hour business But there is a growing back-lash against this. People do not want to be hassled in their free time and most rate home life as more important than work. Companies that realise this will be one step ahead of rivals that still think the enstomer is at their beck and

SFO steers racing fraudsters off the road and into prison

Jason Nissé

tracks the deals that

brought down

Landhurst Leasing

Trank Warren, Terry Venables and Bernie Ecclestone may be tempted to shed a tear Ted Ball and David Ashworth start their sentences for fraud. All three enjoyed ell-documented and lucrative relationships with Landburst Leasing, the finance group run Ball and Ashworth which crashed five years ago with debts of more than £120 million. But though Arthur Andersen, the receivers appointed to Landhurst, found a whole web of unusual transactions, the frauds which Ball and Ashworth admitted last month were simple cases of being paid backhanders in brown envelopes in order to fiddle the books to keep a troubled engi-

neering company affast.

Landhurst was founded by Ball in the early 1980s. Its main ousiness was leasing classic and collectable cars such as Ferraris, Aston Martins and Bentleys. By the end of the decade the business had moved. into a whole host of other exotic

展成员的推研。

With Frank Warren, the boxing promoter, Landhurst be-came heavily involved in his olans to turn the London Arena into a leading venue for sports events and concerts. Landhurst leased the seats for the arena, lending £1 million to Warren, as well as lending a promotion company run by Warren £115,000 secured on the fixtures and fittings of Warren's execu-







Frank Warren, left, Terry Venables and the London Arena all had links with the troubled Landhurst Leasing

chib. Despite attracting artists as diverse as Pavarotti and Pink Floyd, Warren's dream collapsed and he was forced to, in his own words, "invite Price Waterhouse to help me to run the business". In fact the company owning the London Are-na was compulsorily wound up with debts of £30 million.

Landhurst's involvement with Terry Venables was even further away from the group's core business. According to his autobiography, the former England football coach borrowed £1.3 million from Landhurst to help his company, Edennote, to purchase its stake in Tottenham Hotspur when

tive box at Arsenal football he joined with Alan Sugar to rescue the Premiership football club in 1991. But documents unearthed by Anderson when they took control of Landhurst showed that this money was secured on the assets of three public houses owned by a company called Transcontinental, a company of which Venables had been a director as well as Paul Kirby, a Football Association official. The only trouble was that however hard the accountants looked, they could not find one of the pubs, The Bricklaver's Arms in Car-

diff. It appeared it never The Department of Trade and industry examined the dealings of Edennote and pass-ed the file to the Serious Fraud Office, which decided there was not enough evidence to merit further investigation. The DTI is not one to give up that easily and is trying to have Venables disqualified as a director over

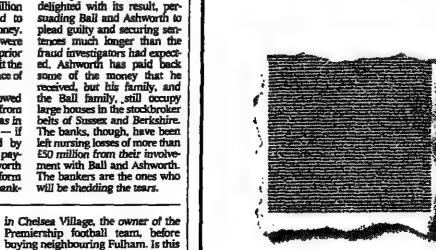
his role in Edennote.
Though Bernie Ecclestone, who has spent most of this year trying to float his Formula One Holdings on the stock market, had no direct involvement with Landhurst, his decision to sell the Brabham Formula One racing team in 1990 led directly to Ball and Ashworth's downfall.

Landhurst had provided fi-nance for Middlebridge Group, an engineering company in

Newport Pagnall, Bucking-hamshire, since 1988, Middlebridge, run by Dennis Nursey and Paul McCormack, was tempted into paying £1 million for Brabham and turned to Landhurst for the money. Middlebridge's finances were not particularly healthy prior to the Brabham deal; after it the company never had a chance of

turning things round.

Middlebridge had borrowed E7.2 million in total from Landhurst. Most of this was in the form of leases which - if Middlebridge fell behind by more than three months' pay ments - Ball and Ashworth were supposed to inform Landhurst's syndicate of bank-



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Who is Nero?

A MISSIVE arrives from within The Independent, the recently redesigned newspaper partially controlled by David Montgomery's Mirror Group. It seems the staff are getting a lime tetchy with Rommel (so called because Monty was on our side), but the message could apply to many organisations.

It quotes Petronius Arbitor, the Roman Governor of Bithynia, who committed suicide in AD 65 after falling foul of Tigellinus, a favourite



I don't know what the letter says - I'm still wading through the partners on the letterhead

hard . . . but it seemed that every time we were to form up in teams, we would be reorganised. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganising — and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralisation." But who, within this scenario, is

Tigethinus, and who is Nero?

Name game

KPMG and the accountants can't think of a name for the new giant. I'm hoping for a return of the names Peat shares since. and Marwick, which seem to have been lost in the mists of time. They also bring back memories of a friend in the City who returned from a meeting once to be delivered a message by his receptionist saying: "Pete called." "Pete who?" he asked. "Pete Smith?

Pete Jones?" Peat Marwick." she replied.

ANYONE expecting the gloriously named Isituto Bancario Sao Paolo di Torino to make a bid for Hambros should not hold their breath. The historic Piedmontese bank has held a 16.6 per cent stake in Hambros for



ALL this hard work sorting out a a decade and two years ago said it merger between Ernst & Young and was planning to raise its holding to 19 per cent. Unforturnately it has done nothing about buying any extra

Driverless

TAKEN a reputation battering? Round yourself unloved and put up for adoption by your parent company? Watched your staff morale slowly sink towards the mariana accords 207W has found the refert trench? BZW has found the perfect way to perk up its remaining staff: it has paid for the company's logo to adorn the sides of the Docklands Light Railway, which runs down to its new offices at Canary Wharf. Although the money is being passed to Save the Children, the move was

the pin-striped melées at Bank sta-tion this morning. "Perfect," one said. "A driverless train sponsored by a driverless company." Pity BZW's marketing experts were too late for the Titanic. Stumped

tors, Charlie Whelan, spinning out of

ected with some sarcasm in one of

IS THE Shane Warne of spin doc-

control? Yesterday amid all the fu-rore about EMU, Wheelan's boss, Gordon Brown, seemed less than pleased to be put in the situation of turning on a new Stock Exchange trading system only to witness an immediate market crash. As the Chancellor turned on his heels and jumped in the ministerial car, he left Whelan behind on a freezing pavement, attempting to hail a cab to follow on

THE tenuous connection of the week award goes to Enpar, an engineering company based in Rotherham. It claims credit for Thrust's successful attempt to break both the sound bar-rier and the land speed record as Enpar supplied the metal tubing for the jig which manufactured the chassis of the jet-powered car".

Offside

SO Mohamed Al Payed admitted yesterday that he approached Ken Bates about buying a majority stake

Mohamed Al Fayed admits that he considered buying a majority stake in Chelsea Village

General Accident buys Canadian insurer for £265m

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

GENERAL ACCIDENT expects annual cost savings of £33 million and a 5 per cent improvement in earnings each year after an agreed purchase of Canadian General Insurance Group for C\$600 million (£265 million). The savings are

expected from 1999 unwards. Canadian General is the eleventh largest property and casualty insurer in Canada and the move will enhance GA's strategic position in that

Philip Twyman, GA group executive director of finance. said the £33 million (C\$75) million) included an annual saving of C\$30 million on staff costs. About 600 employees will be made redundant out of a workforce of 2,300. All job losses will be in Canada.

Further cost savings of C\$10 million will come from combining the office premises of the two businesses: C\$30 million from combining IT sys-

tems: C\$5 million from reduced reinsurance costs and an additional C\$10 million from miscellaneous sources.

approval from Canadian reg-ulators and is expected to be

completed by the end of this

year. On a pro forma basis,

the group comprising GA. Canadian General and Pilot

generated net written premi-

ums of C\$1.8 billion in 1996,

giving it an almost 10 per cent

share of the Canadian market.

The company said the acquisition represented a signifi-

can't move in a fragmented

market that had yet to consoli-

date. Mr Twyman indicated

GA, said: "The acquisition of

Canadian General places our

Canadian business on a new

competitive plane. We are confident that this transaction

will sustain market leadership

in Canada in our preferred

segments, generate consider-

able cost savings and be value-

enhancing for General

that further-deals were likely in the group as a whole. Bob Scott, chief executive of

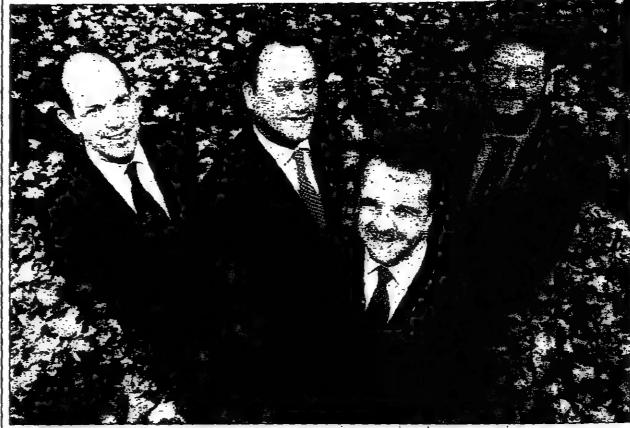
Mr Twyman said a new management team would be drawn from the best people in both companies. GA said it intended to merge its existing operations in Canada with those of Canadian General as fast as possible, although GA's other interest in Canada. Pilot, the insurance company, would continue to operate separately.

The terms of the acquisition include a goodwill write-off of C\$440 million, which prompted some analysts to suggest that GA had overpaid. Canadian General is an affiliate of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts.

GA is to acquire the whole of Canadian General's issued share canital for a cash consideration of C\$600 million. The deal will be financed by cash

from GA's existing resources.

Harvey Nash maiden half-year sales up 45%



David Treacher, front right, with Ian Furniss, left, David Higgins and Tom Crawford, after the educaper cent to 12.4 million, on sales up 45 per cent to £23.8 million. The shares fell from 287p to 2735p.

out of which an interim dividend of 1.55p will be paid, 16 per cent above the figure in the April floration prospectus. Mr Treacher said: "The market in which we

Product rethink by Seton

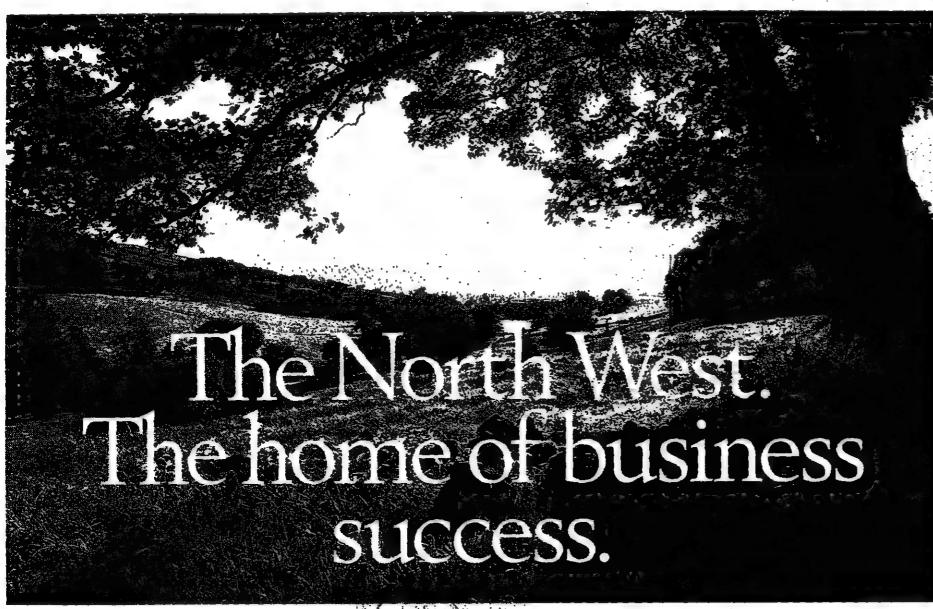
SETON Healthcare, the overthe-counter medicines company, has weeded out its less profitable product lines after its recent £21.7 million acquisition of ThackrayCare,

The group-wide rationalisa tion contributed £800,000 to an exceptional charge of £26. million that cut Seton's halfyear, pre-tax profits to £6.7 million (£7.9 million). Excluding one offs, pre-tax profits rose 18 per cent. Operating profits increased 21 per cent to EILS million.

Isin Cater, Seton's chief executive, said £1.8 million of the exceptional charge reflected the ThackrayCare and paying of the bulk discount terms previously enjoyed by the acquired firm's wholesalers.
Like-for-like sales fell 4 per

cent. However, Seion said product sales in the market lace continued to grow at 8 to 12 per cent. Sales in the six months to August 31 rose 8 per. cent to £53.3 million, although the increase was almost entire ly down to the inclusion of ThackrayCare from June.

An interim dividend of 3p (2.7p) will be paid on January 30.



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National Power puts £162m into Turkey

NATIONAL POWER, the UK's biggest generator, is to put £162 million into three Turkish power plants, taking its overseas investment to nearly £1.2 billion. It has been growing its international business over the past five years as more independent power projects begin operating around the world. When the Turkish stations begin feeding into National Power's income next year, contributions from overseas operations will reach 20 per cent of revenue.

The deals announced yesterday will give National Power-two 42.5 per cent stakes in lignite-fired stations, along with attached lignite mines, and a 45 per cent stake in a gas-fired station. Keith Henry, chief executive, said the Turkish deals would "enable us to consolidate our operations in Turkey, and to build a long-term business in a country with one of Europe's fastest-growing electricity demands".

Dean Corp share issue

DEAN CORP said it is to raise £2.4 million net of expenses through the issue of 13.9 million new ordinary shares at 13.5p a share. Dean Corp said existing shareholders would be offered three shares for every ten shares held. The shares remained unchanged as 15p. The company also said it received subscriptions for 7.2 million shares from Future Match Ltd, which is 80 per cent owned by First Shanghai Investments. Dean said that it intends to explore with First Shanghai opportunities for future collaboration.

Wace's £3.9m disposal

WACE has sold the trade and assets of its Conical Containers business to Polarcup, the UK packaging unit of Finland's Huhtamacki, for E3.9 million. The transaction completes the disposal programme of the non-core element of the former Ferry Pickering Group acquired by Wace in December 1995. Wace said that the net proceeds of the disposal would be used to reduce the borrowings of the group. Conical Containers makes cardboard tube with injection-moulded plastic lids for

R-R helicopter order

ROLLS-ROYCE has won a \$189 million (£116 million) contract to supply engines for US Army helicopters through its Allison subsidiary. The five-year contract is to supply up to 600 model 250 engines for new and refurbished Kiowa Warrior helicopters, a two-man craft used in support of US troops in the Middle East and, most recently, in US Army operations in Bosnia. Delivery of the engines from Allison, which is based in the US and was acquired by Rolls-Royce in 1995, will begin in the first quarter of 1998.

Upton moves ahead

UPTON & SOUTHERN, the retail group, raised pre-tax profits from E243,000 to £423,000 in the year to July 26, on sales up 32 per cent to Ell.8 million. Earnings per share increased from 0.14p to 0.20p. The board said that it had carefully considered whether the company should now pay a dividend on the ordinary shares, but had concluded that the funds available would be better used for capital investment. New stores were opened in Newcastle upon Type and Hartlepool during the year.

Shell Chinese venture

SHELL International Chemicals has signed a joint venture agreement with Jinling Petrochemical Corporation in China. The joint venture, to be known as Jinling Shell Petrochemical company, will be incorporated in China and will be 50 per cent owned by Shell companies and 40 per cent by Jinling. Jinling will contribute its expandable polystyrene plant, which was built in 1991 under a Shell licence. Shell said that the joint venture would modernise the plant and expand capacity by 2000.

Vote on dock pay offer

DOCKERS involved in a two-year dispute after being sacked for refusing to cross a picket line; yesterday backed a decision to vote on a final offer. But leaders of the 329 Liverpool dockers are recommending rejection of the offer from the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company of £28,000 per person and the promise of 40 jobs. The weekend decision by the leadership of the Transport and Gerieral Workers' Union to hold a beliet by tomorrow was endersed at a mass meeting of the dockers yesterday. .

Foster's in Vietnam deal

FOSTER'S BREWING, of Australia, has expanded into Vietnam, buying two local breweries in one of the world's fastest-growing beer markets for A\$78 million (£35 million). The deal completes the first stage of an Asian foray that began with ventures in China and India. John Ralph, chairman of Foster's, told shareholders at the company's annual meeting in Melbourne that the breweries would give Foster's six per cent of the Vietnamese beer market.

oduct think Seton

Equities halve early losses **Portfolio** TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous, day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and £4,000 to be won price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. exactly the points required for share the £4,000 daily prize. **Portfolio** AILY DIVIDEND + 33 Claims required for + 33 pts Cialmants should ring 0171-481 3388 between 9.30am-3pm Weekly Dividend

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Frank Gehry's sensational new Guggenheim Museum is one of the century's supreme buildings, says Richard Cork

Big, bold and brilliant in Bilbao

the new Guggen heim Museum in Bilbao looks at once shimmering and convulsive. It erupts from the river's edge with astounding force, and yet the titaniumclad surfaces gleam seductively in the Spanish sun

Frank Gehry, the California-based architect of this revelatory building manipulates writhing forms at their most restless. They explode outwards, and flow along the embankment like unstoppable white lava. But just as they threaten to envelop the nearby bridge, their undulations are held as if in a freeze-frame. Each glittering component is arrested at the peak of its volcanic energy.

As a result the museum.

vides run-down Bilbao with even more of a landmarkmonument than its commissioners, the Basque Government, can ever have dared to hope. The centrepiece of the city's ambitious \$1.5 billion redevelopment, which includes a coolly refined Norman Foster Underground system and an elegant footbridge by Santiago Calatrava, this swaggering tour de force deserves to be ranked among the supreme buildings of the 20th century. Arryone who cares about architecture must visit it forthwith

Viewed from the river, the building seems to relax and expand, unfurling like a sequence of overlapping waves or fish thrashing their ecstatic tails against the sky. Metaphors proliferate in the mind. ensuring that Gehry's imag-ery thwarts any single interdialogue he sets up between materials, juxtaposing the reflective lightness of titanium with limestone's warmer solidity and the bristling linear. impicacy of ribbed windows.

We realise, too, how courageously he has made his building a part of the urban fabric. Far from avoiding the vehicular bridge, an undistinguished postwar structure, Gehry embraces it. One twisted titanium curve haits just above the road, hanging there with exclamatory drama to

har's more the the bridge, terminating on the other side. There, as a final flourish, Gehry has erected a splintered structure in metal and stone. Shamelessly unfunctional, it looks more like a freestanding sculpture than a part of the building.

The architect has always

been proud of his friendships with artists. They have nourished his work for decades, helping him to approach architecture with the expressive freedom he seeks. The Gug-genheim in Bilbao is far and away his most flamboyant attempt to put this unfettered approach into action on the grandest scale imaginable. But as I traversed its shell and marvelled at Gehry's ceaselessly inventive panache, ques-



Inside the museum, narrow walkways twist and soar

tions about the interior multiplied in my head. Would it be nothing more than an ebullient display of architectural high spirits, ignoring the ex-

There is nothing remotely reticent about the titanic atrium confronting everyone soon after they enter. It surges a vertiginous 165ft, more than double the height of Frank Lloyd Wright's spiralling ro-tunds in the New York Guggenheim. And as if

to vouchsafe that nobody remains unaffected by its giddiness; Gebry alternates between billowing white plaster and angusimplicity with wilful complica-

tion. Narrow serforthwith 9 pentine walkways are suspended in space, daring us to negotiate them without reeling: And as we clamber higher

verity is continually interrupt-

ed by Baroque elaboration.

I found myself looking downwards, sideways and upwards, in a hydra-headed atrelished Gehry's determination to provide, time and again, views of sky, river and city. And, conversely, I was ambushed by his willingness to let some of the titanium cladding burst in from outside, warning us that he is prepared to flout architectural civilities at every turn.

At a press conference Gehry declared that "I've spent much of my life talking to artists about what a museum should be". His conclusion was unexpected, flouring conventional wisdom by stressing that "art-ists are tired of being in a neutral building - they want to be in an important place". To my relief, though, what Gehry described as his give it hell" approach to architecture

is countered by an innate respect for the needs of the artwork itself. Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, who collaborated with Gehry on a Californian office incorporating a giant pair of binoculars, have been given a place of honour for their Soft Shuttle-cock. Expanded to a moncanvas-covered foam, it is transformed into a collapsing sci-fi insect beached on a

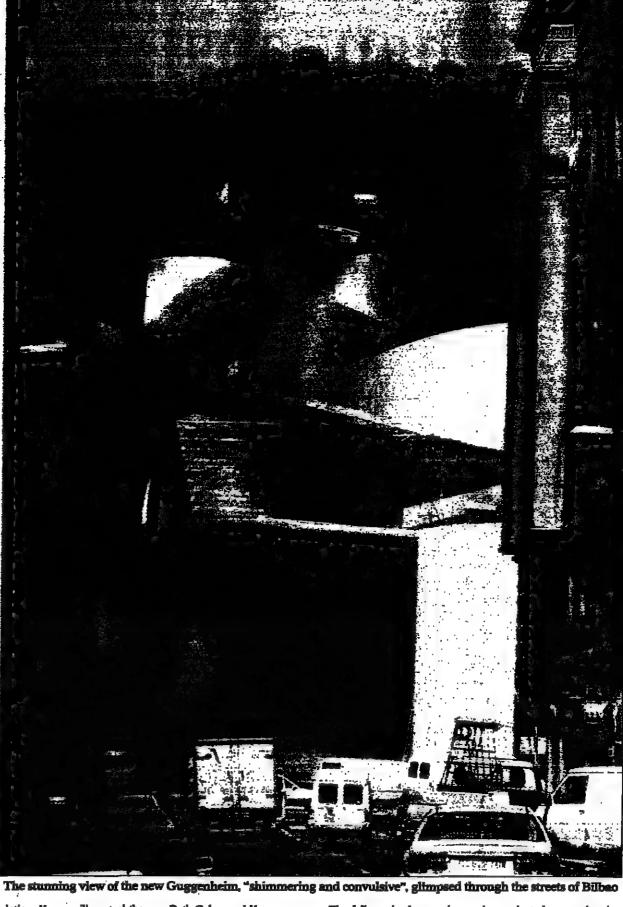
platform high in the atrium. It is a colossal intru-Genry seems to welcome it in the heart of his who cares about

For all its idioarchitecture housed here. Nothmust visit it ing could be more overwheiming than Richard Serra's Snake, one

of the specially commissioned works, its three undulating expanses of steel wriggle through the largest gallery, inviting us to walk inside like travellers exploring a dark, narrow canyon.

The bost-shaped room enclosing Snake is 450ft in dominate its surroundings. Many of the exhibits beyond, though, suffer from the immensity of the space. Big minimalist pieces by Carl André and Don Judd look diminished, and even the hillboard-size paintings by Robert Rauschenberg, James Rosenquist and Warhol are dwarfed

on the 80ft-high walls. If Gehry had his way, this gargantuan gallery would be split up. But Thomas Krens, director of the Guggenheim Foundation and mastermind of the Bilbao venture, insisted that it remain undivided. In this respect, Krens was wrong. But he deserves credit for backing Gehry's \$100 million building and pushing it through to triumphant com-



pletion. Krens will control the exhibition programme, feeding it with many of the best 20th-century works from the New York collection.

The Guggenheim's role here has been the butt of some sniping articles, deploring its growing influence across Europe. Without doubt, the Basques should make sure that they take command. But however many charges of cultural colonialism may be bandied about, the truth is that the Guggenheim has provided Bilbao with a mirac-ulous showcase.

Both Gehry and Krens were clearly aware of the need to accommodate art with diverse requirements. So for every full-blown operatic space inside there are also more sober galleries for older exhibits. One small round chamber proves ideal for drawings and watercolours by Giacometti, Gorky and Elisworth Kelly. And the rooms containing the Guggenheim's historic Modernist collection, from Picasso's Cubism to the Abstract Expressionists and beyond, could scarcely be more well-

The failures in the opening exhibition are curatorial rather than architectural, and can easily be remedied. Jim Dine's garish trio of crude Spanish Venuses do not deserve prominence, blocking a spectacular window behind them. And the gallery beyond is marred by the indigestible variety of work installed there.

But these mistakes can be rectified, and the successful rooms easily outnumber them. For this is an inspirational museum, inside and out, Surging, swooping and soaring, Gehry's pyrotechnic display

shows just how pedestrian most other modern architecture has become.

◆ The Guggenheim Museum Bli-bao (0034-1-423-2799/9000) is open Sun Ilam-3pm, Tues-Wed Ilam-Spm, Thurs-Sat Ilam-9pm,

sculpture meant to outlive the simple circular point he makes? It is difficult to know. The left-over detritus of certain social housing and landscaping policies are represented by art objects; bronze casts of broken saplings strangled in stand transformed in value and significance on the gallery

Looted Shop Front 1997, the cast of a real shop window with broken glass, looks like a plastic Magritte painting as it leans against the wall, a frame within a frame. Replicas of two heads by Henry Moore, also broken off in real life, lie on the floor while the familiar apparently abstract, trinity of free-standing upright metal-work is the bare structure left after a park bench has been

The Showroom, 44 Bonner Road, London E2 (0181-983 4115) until Nov 16

☐ Daniel Coombs has changed his work dramatically, moving from early spatial figurative narration to huge apparently simple paintings. taking up the gallery at The Approach appears to be an immediate symbol or icon. 2 straightforward representation. House, a rendition more basic than a child could manstamped against a blue back-ground: Fire has red paint seeping into a salt-encrusted canvas surface to give the sense of a familiar and overextended template sprayed against an outside wall.

Coombs must wonder how far this pull between physical effect and suggested symbol can go. Time spent on asking very basic questions — "what does the painter hope to say?" or "am I missing something?" allows an element of disquiet and distrust to creep in. The Approach, 1st Floor, 47 Approach Road, London E2 (0181-983 3378) until Nov 9

☐ A GENERALLY noncha lant mixed show of work by six around the backyard of a deserted police station in Bethnal Green. The highlights include Tomoko Takahashi'a excellent arrangement, which makes use of the place and its past with a mass of abandoned police equipment strewn through a warren of gloves and coat-hangers look been disturbed in the act. Upstairs, across the yard, Brian Cyril Griffiths has assembled two free-standing boyish models of semi-scientif ic instruments from simple found material. Old Bethnal Green Police

Station, 458 Bethnal Green Road, London E2 (0171-739) 7228) until Nov I

SACHA CRADDOCK

SOPHOCLES: FRANK McGUINNESS 'A TRIUMPH WANAMAKÉS

THE SUCCESS STORY OF THE NINETIES CAN YOU ALWAYS GET YOUR COPY? Dear Newsagent, please deliver/save use a copy of THE TIMES

POP: Guitar men hit the spot; militants made good get back to basics

Unplugged and electrifying

n evening of inspiring craftsmanship at the Queen Elizabeth Hall was admirably set in train by Joseph Arthur, one of the year's most original recording album-making at the age of 26, played songs from his debut offering on the Real World label, Big City Secrets, with the impudent air of a court entertainer, whipping up a one-man storm with an extraordinary "live sampling" technique on his acoustic guitar. A name to note.

Being in on the Ron Sexsmith secret produces the contrasting thoughts of any clandestine pleasure: you

tell the world how great it is. The Canadian proved himself an instant original on his selftitled debut record for Interflower garden of rare musical blooms, tended by a voice to cry for. The blossoms were just as delicate this summer on Other Songs, an album that confirmed Sexsmith as a songwriter of painful poignancy.

Now to witness those songs flourishing in this intimate environment was a true treat.

With his Beatle moptop, baby face and stumbling patter. Sexsmith is an endearingly reluctant and unlikely frontman. His acoustic guitar accompanied only by drums, bass and occasional accordion, he presented little to watch but was never remotely dull, as 90 minutes flew by on the strength of some evocative

lyrics and indelible melodies. From the previous album, songs such as Lebanon, Tennessee and Secret Heart sat comfortably with new pieces that underline his unfailing ability to hitch a comely tune to a lyric of unswerving directness, as in Pretty Little Cemewere good as gold ... go back to the real world while you're

still young").
Sexsmith's writing is replete with simple profundity, as in April After All, in which he steers a relationship off the rocks with the calm observation: "Tears are bound to fall, it's April after all."

A cover of Everyday I Write The Book, written by one of his celebrity supporters, Elvis Costello, was like a warm beam of light, and he closed with a delightful version of his countryman Gordon Lightfoot's mighty Sundown.

PAUL SEXTON

Talking into the Forum last week Rockers for was like taking a step back in time. A wall of sticky heat, the overpowering smell of sweat and the sound of acid house combined to recall early rave days. When the music stopped, a sacked Liverpool docker took to the stage to tell a crowd which consisted largely of long-haired students and tattooed punks that his only crime had

been to refuse to cross a picket line. This was Chumbawamba's first show since the phenomenal chart success of their single Tubthumping, which has sold more than half a million copies. Clearly, long-time fans have not been put off by the unexpected mainstream status recently bestowed on the politically active Leeds collective, which has been releasing records for more than a decade. Strangely, however, there was no sign of the band's new pop audience (although the

the dockers



benefit for 500 redundant Liverpool dockers featuring Chumbawamba and support, rather than as the headliners' own show). Live, Chumbawamba is a hard act to

pin down. The band's musical philosophy is to explore vastly different styles on each of its albums: in the late 1980s it followed a hardcore punk record with a collection of gig had, admittedly, been billed as a a cappella folk songs, while Tubthumper

; has melodic pop at its core. This 45-minute set saw the band skip from ska and dancehall to throbbing techno to its trademark shouty, drum-driven calls to arms, taking in soul, rock and jazz influences en route and even finding time to dedicate a traditional Irish reel to Anti-Pascist Action. There were common factors too, though - a glorious if overused brass section; sharply contrasted male-versus-female vocals.

The bulk of Chumbawamba's new "pop" songs, however, were a disappointment played live. Tame and top-heavy, they were too jaunty and up-tempo to suit the band's powerful sound. Only when the melody was weighted down with rock guitars and a deep bass, as on Tubthumping, which closed the set, was the audience suitably roused and ready to

LISA VERRICO



"THE PERFECT WEST END PLAY"



A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM, Estorian Paavo Java conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Joined by the Nonregian pranist Leif Ove Anderes and the Swediah bumpeter Håkan

Hardenberger in an evening teaturing Haydn, Broten and Shostakovich.

CAMBRIDGE: Premere here tonight for Beyond the Stan Horizon — a collaboration between Threstle

Theatre Company and the Britten Sintona. The nature Britain, and has a cook at the nature Britain, and has a score by David Home. Arts Theatre, 6 St Edward's Pessage, (01223 503333). Tonight and temorrow

CANTERBURY: The sociarmad British company Phoenix District amives at the Cartestury Feetingli with a lively programme feeting works by Mark Baldwin and Dwight Finden. Hartises There. The Frient (II) 27/ 78/78/7 Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm. 20

LIVERPOOL: This is the only Northern put of duties for the Heart. Caryl Churchill plays tricks with reality or this double bill for Out Of Joint — in

Heart's Desire, where a family is

vailing for a women to return from Australia, and in Blue Kettle as a con man tres to persuade elderly women has their long lost son. Everystein, Hope Street (0151-709 4776) Tonigh-Set, 7.30pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

House full, returns only
Scom seals evaluable
Scots at all prices

keep his love tile private, unlike Occar Wilde, who also eppears Paul Rhys plays the young Housman and Michael Bryant is Charon tenying the

dead across the Styx.
Netional (Cottestoe), South Benk.
SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Thur,
7 30pm, real tomorow, 2 30pm (5)

ANE EYRE: Shared Experience's

The Young Via, 60 The Qui, SE1 (0171-926 6363) Tue-Sal, 7 30pm; meta Tue, Thur and Sat, 2 30pm.

A LETTER OF RESIGNATION:

School Fox and Class Higgins play
Harold Macmillan and Lady Dorothy of
High Whitemore's play about the

Consent Thesaw, Pankon Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731), Mon-Set, 7 48pm; mess Wed, 3pm; Set, 4pm

SHE KNOWS YOU KNOW! Jean Fegurean writes and sairs in the life story of the celebrated corne Hydra Salver, by all accounts a lunny but difficult women.

Vanderfile Theetre. The Strand, WC2 (0) 71-800 (987), Mon-Sut, Spin:

LONDON

A DELICATE BALLANCE Mages Smith, Eileen Alkins, Annebe Crusbie, John Standing in a welcome return of Edirerd Albert's haunting play concerning middle-class angst. Consistency Page directs
Theathe Reyal, Haymarket, SWI
171-930 88001 Opens lonight, 7pc
Then Mon-Sat, 8pm mats Wed and
Sat, 3pm (§)

PHOIE CZARD: GLOWINGS Big Eddle starts a London four — ned dates: Sixton. Docklands, Kentish Town — before setting off round the country with ris Latest show Labett's Apollo. Queen Caroline Street, Hammersmith, WS (0771-416) and Sixton. 8082). Tonight-Sat. 6pm 🚯

YOUNG MASTER: The outstanding young French volints Peldus Kutsstie, witness of the 1995 Schellus Volin Competition, visits the Wigmare with a programme featining Bach, Schrifflie, Prokules and Baxet.
Wigmare Hell, Wigmore Sheet, W | (0171 935 2141) Tonight, 7 30pm.

DANCE UMBRICLA: London's arrund international lestival of contemporary dance lacks off with a visit by the American choreographer Stephen Peronio and his company Petronio's programme bears his lamiliar rademarks of provocation, of valer prowess and kinky ohic With music by Suede and the Strengters

Queen Excelor hall, fouth Bank,
SE1 (0171-960 4242) Tonight and
tomorrow, 7 45pm [5]

E) ART Flon Cook, Nigel Haves and Malcolm Storry in this exceptionally njeresting drama about mendship, unspektin resentiment and an almost allwinte paining. Wyndfash's, Chaung Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) Tue-Sat, Spin; mais Wed, 3pm, Sal and Sun, Spin.

in Beautry AND THE STEAST. Disney's film turned trito a his Broad musical Julie-Alanah Brighten and Alasadar Habrey as the leads, with support from the titles of Derek Griffitha and Norman Rossington, Downloater, Totarman Churt Rosel, W1 (0171-416 6080) Mon-Sat. 7.30pm; met Sat. 2 30pm.

☐ BOY'S LIFE, 1988 play by the existent US writer, Havingo Korden.
Three young Americans bying to reach
addition of the customary manner
New End, 27 New End, Hampslead,
NH/3 (0171-784 0022), Tue-Sat, 7 30pm;
mais Sat and Sun, 2:30pm (5)

COMBING UP. Nacola Dullett plays the teacher champoning a boy after a thefil in a shopping mail. Comedy by Jennes Medin Charlion, author of the excellent Fall Souls.

Werebouse, Dingwell Rd. East Croydon (0181-880 4080). The 8-30pm;

Wed-Sat. Born, Sun. 5om. [] FAITH New Meredit: Cakes play have in the Southern ner somewhere where solders display a hamaphere where solders display a range of responses as they light to regun an island. John Burgess dreds. Reyel Court Upstains (Ambassadors) West St, WC2 (0171-565 5000) Mon-Sat, 7 45pm.

Stopperd's new play with John Wood as the elderly A. E. Housman, careful to

NEW RELEASES PRIE WILLY & THE RESCUE (U): 3323) UCI Whitelery: (5 (0990 69866) Virgin Trocadero (5 (0171-434 003)) Werner (5 (0171-437 4343)

SHOOTING PISH (12): Spr SHIGOTING PISH (12): Sprawing British comedy about young adventurers running searns. Not as good as it fibrits it is. With Stuart Townsond, Dan Fulterman, Kate Beckmaste Nating Pitt Coronal (2) (0) 7 (-727 6795) Odeotas: Canader Town (0) 181-315 4214) Marble Arch (0) 181-315 4216) Buttes Cottage (0) 181-315 4219 (0) 717-737 (2) 19 Coronal Balan Storal (0) 717-737 (2) 19 Caronal Balan Storal (0) 190-88899) (1990-88899)

SUBURBIA (18): Telling comedy drama about amless American youth, from Enc Bogostati s play Richard Livering oracle in mouting cast.

ABCs: Placedity (0171-437 3561)

Tellinium Catal Road (0171-636 6148) Metro (0171-437 0757)

WILDE (15), Stephen Fry as Osca UDE (19), Septien Pry es Osolie fine aird locating, finough the film fore lamd than you might expect. memorial dection by Bhan Glabort, ristem \$5 (0771-498 3223) bernetch (10161-493 3205) Odeonist metan (10161-233 3005) Odeonist metan (10161-233 3005) Odeonist metan (10161-233 3005) Camden (0181-315-4255) Haymarket (0181-315-4212) Kesshigton (0181-315-4212) Kesshigton (0181-315-4212) Kesshigton (0181-315-4212) Swiss Collage (0181-315-425) Screen/Hill (5) (0171-435-3366) Uzu Walter (6) (0171-435-3366) Uzu Walter (6) (0171-437-4343)

CINEMA GUIDE

CURRENT PACE (18): Treves lell cut siter a robbey. Flashy Enteh thelier, with Robert Carlyle and, bresty, Damon Album Director, Amonia Bird. Empire (5) (0900 888890) (5) Ritay (0171-737 2121) Virgin Treasders (0171-434 0031)

THE GWEET HEREAFTER IN Lawyor stra up grieving community.
Powerful version of Russell Banks's nevel from the connoclassic Arom Egoven With Ian Holm.
Curzon Maryfatr (0171-368 1720) Richmand (0181-332 0039)

A funny thing happens

are just over 700 differences between Ken Campbell and the poet John Keats, but they do share a fondness for digression. Keats maintained that he provided regions where readers could wander around picking and choosing — picking which stanzas to skip, presum-ably — but in Campbell Country no region is ever so unimportant that it can be

wisely ignored. Between now and the end of the month he gives four more performances of a show seen briefly at the Barclays New Stages season at the Royal Court last year. The title declares the material, but this is not an impersonal ragbag of anecdotes, an "A funny thing happened to Robert Morley on the way to the theatre" sort of show. Its distant ancestors are those volumes of reminiscences bearing such titles as Fifty Years in Greasepaint, whimsical works that generaly quite fall to give the kiss of life to the episodes they recall.

Not so the incidents Campbell regales us with, which could well leave you, as one of them left me, weeping with laughter as he goes swooping along a seemingly endless rollercoaster of misadventures. Of course his looks help him. His lack of commanding height may have meant that in rep productions of Macbeth he played the Porter or "Angus who?" and never the monarch. but the expression of unsurprise that remains on his face no matter what happens to him or happens to unsuspecting colleagues caught up in his life is an unfailing cue

Cottesion 12

belongs to the Buster "Stoneface" Keaton school. With beetling brows resembling window awnings extended over eyes that sometimes flash a glare as mad as Ralph Richardson's, he energetically animates the curious inhabitants of Campbell Country.

Some of these persons may have been born odd, but others had oddness thrust upon them when Ken came their way - if, for instance, they received one of the letters purporting to come from Trevor Numn, at that time in charge of the RSC, which Campbell sent to dozens of actors and directors. After the triumphant production of Nicholas Nickleby, recipients were informed, the company would now be concentrating exclusively upon Dickens. The RSC was to become the RDC - "so that'll be it for the Bard". Not everyone suspected a

The evening begins with him flipping through the pages of an account of Peter Brook's African search for a universal language. A couple of hours later, after excursions to auditions, reps, transcendental meditation and his own 22-hour production of The Warp, he ends up in the South Pacific, wondering if pidgin might be that chisive universal tongue. He shows how the few basic words work to build others, perhaps ultimately something as complex as (here



Ken Campbell calls on a South Seas friend in the course of telling his Theatre Stories

From Lady Makbed's first speech I give you the phrase taken ma hanbag" — ie. "Unsex me here" - and pass on the warning that since. The Importance of Being Ear-

hanbag is a word not to beused in polite New Hebrides society, it would be a mistake

nest. Laughter combined with vital information, that's the magic formula.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Curtain up on this year's curate's egg

The appearence of Melonfarmer, a first play from Alex Johnston, as this year's Dublin Theatre Festival offering from the Peacock suggests an attack of nerves on the part of the National Theatre. Johnston's story of a young Dubliner experiencing a growing sense of his own ordinariness always remains an embryonic drama. The play occasionally throws up a neat vignette of twentysomething Dublin angst, but seldom achieves

much more. It is easy to see the attraction of Johnston, a member of Bedrock, the energetic fringe company from which Jimmy Fay, the play's director, also hails. Johnston focuses his attention on exactly the younger, urban audience that regularly doesn't turn up at the National Theatre. He writes some smart dialogue and takes his lead from film rather than the canon of Irish

playwrights. All this might yet add up to a fresh. new voice in Irish drama (although it's hard to imagine that the theatre is anything more than a stop-off on the way to the cinema for Johnston). The

Luke Clancy on the mixture of newcomers and old-stagers at the Dublin Theatre Festival

disjointed and unfocused Melonfarmer, however, exhibits only and unfocused the exterior features of such a voice. It will require much more than compulsive masturbation, gunplay and a drunk dancing to a Chemical Brothers tape to see in the new century in style.

Massive Damages, the first play from the journalist Declan Lynch, has no pretensions about shaping the future of Irish drama. It is an almost too straightforward satire that succeeds simply because it has the kind of firm grip on the contemporary Irish scene that must bring water to the eyes of the Zeitgeist.

When a washed-up singer and a grubby journalist conspire to defraud a newspaper through a phoney libel charge, the ensuing court case (staged as a game show) becomes a kind of Armageddon of the stereotypes. Gerry Stembridge's production gives Lynch's surly wit a sharp focus, but also leaves

enough space for some wild and wilful acting, particularly from Tom Hickey, whose linest moment comes in a long, long, soliloguy consisting of nothing more than maniacal barking. Spalding Gray is getting old, and he

doesn't care who knows it. The new monologue he brought to Dublin, It's A Slippery Slope, is ostensibly about learning to ski. In reality, however, it's about some snowy intimations of mortality received on the slopes at Aspen. Theatrically, there is little difference between this and Grav's previous "one man and his desk ows. This is still a comic travelogue through a functionally neurotic psyche, still driven by fine writing, including one of Gray's best ever pieces, about a stoned, death-drive downhill run at Aspen. But there is a sense that beneath his familiar, sophisticated articulation of low-level panic, Gray is really getting worried.

Like Gray, John Byrne is a worrier. But where his American counterpart can't quite work out why he is so troubled. Byrne sees all his problem as coming from one place. In A Border, Worrier, Byrne acts our a life around the border with the help of a model observation post, some paper flowers and a wheelbarrow full of soil in a performance that is by nims painfully funny and frighteningly direct. Never-theless, some sharpness has not completely made the transition from performance art (Byrne's first calling)

to the demands of a full theatre show. It makes a strange kind of sense that Mannix Flynn's Edinburgh hit, Talking to the Wall, was part of neither the Fringe nor the official Festival. Flynn's rhythmic incantation on a life carved out between bouts of incarceration is. after all, the history of a terminal outsider. Flynn's play offers the unignorable suggestion that not all energy is a function of youth. The best place to find something fresh may not be with those who have yet to be tamed, but with those, like Flynn, who have proved untameable.

Twist and shout

ances at the South Bank's "Dimensions Festival of music from Russia and the former Soviet Republics were by Helikon Opera from Moscow. This sizeable chamber company was found-ed in 1990 by the director Dmitry Bertman. The source are young but the music director is the vereran conductor Kiril Tikhonov, in principle a canny combination. Helikon has enjoyed considerable success at home and abroad, and was granted the title "State Opera" as early as 1993. The iconoclastic company style is considered highly refreshing after so many years of monu-mental "official" opera.

Helikon brought two shows to the Queen Elizabeth Hall: a double bill of Stravinsky's Mavra and Prokofiev's Maddalena on Saturday, The Queen of Spades on Sunday, and kept the audience on its toes for the double bill by

OPERA

reversing the playing order without warning. The Stravin-sky came off best, and could be described as either a huge romp or wildly over-directed; according to taste. But it had a star performance from Sergei Yakovlev as the hussar. Vassily, who anticipated his return as the eponymous maid-of-all-work by wearing more eye-shadow than is customary in any cavairy regiment I know.

Maddalena was written and partly orchestrated in 1913 and then put in a drawer where it should perhaps have remained — until after the composer's death. The plot is part of the failout from Salome, one of those countless "shocking" melodramas set in italy, in this case a threehander in which the heroine's husband and lover kill each other, to her evident satisfaction. Prokofievs music, with precious few pointers to Flery Angel and the glories to come, fails to animate the material. any more than did Bertman's mercifully short.

Some swapping of personae in the Prokonev should have rung warning bells about what was to happen to Tchaikovsky's opera, much cut and capriciously so. The action was equally capricious. an incoherent concatenation of disconnected images innocent of cause and effect, and quite impossible to follow. Tikhonov conducted a ser-

viceable performance of what was left of the score, although the orchestral sound was inevitably muffled by the players being placed behind a gauze, There were some fine singers. especially the tenor Vacim Zaplechny and the baritones igor Tarasev and Andrei Baturkin, but they all sang at a steady double to triple fortissimo, fielding a barrage of wearing in the QEH.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY OCTOBER 21 1997

I rainspotters get sentimental

Carol Allen finds out what led the

three-man cult movie team to make a romantic

comedy

dinirers of Trainspotting and Shallow Grave are in for a shock this week when the latest film by the gang of three", Danny Boyle, Andrew MacDonald and John Hodge, opens simultaneously here and in America. Unlike its predecessors, A Life Less Ordinary is a romantic comedy, and therefore something completely different. Or is it?

"It's a romance and it is. funny but it has dramatic elements as well," says Hodge, the writer of the team. "Just as Shallow Grave and Trainspotting mix up a few genres, in that one is basically a thriller and one is a buddy movie but with other elements, this does the same, so that hopefully it has a feeling of being something new and original. After the first two. which are both quite dark and morbid films, we wanted to do something that was more optimistic and wasn't afraid to show some honest sentiment. I: think it would have been a terrible mistake to try to make Trainspotting 2 or Shallow Grave 2. There's no point in repeating something you've already done."

While MacDonald, the producer, admits there is a danger of alienating fans of the previous two films, it was, he argues, a risk that had to be "We couldn't have ayed in the same vein as. Trainspotting. We had to try something different. Otherwise people would have been incredibly disappointed."

A Life Less Ordinary does have elements in common. with the team's previous films. - the same quirky, darkly surreal humour, and a strong element of free-wheeling fantasy, which can turn a karaoke sequence into an affectionate pastiche of the Hollywood musical, and incorporate two angels sent with orders 20 ensure that the young couple (Ewan McGregor and Cameron Diaz) fall in love. There is also a totally contemporary feel to the central relationship, the woman, and a total ab-. sence of sentimentality in a genre which frequently suffers from a great streak of sugar at

"We try to avoid that," says Hodge. "No sugar, no saccha-



Communing with the angels: (from left) producer Andrew MacDonald, director Danny Boyle and writer John Hodge get up on the roof to contemplate A Life Less Ordinary

rine, no artificial sweeteners. it doesn't mean you can't have emotion in the film. I think that because it's got a hard. edge the emotion is actually more believable."

"The film is very optimistic," MacDonald adds. "It's a fantasy, but it has a feeling of truth about it which some people might say is cynical. We don't want to be mushy and semimental." All three confess, however,

to being believers in the film's romantic premise of two people who are meant for eachother from the moment their eyes meet. Hodge, now 33, got married earlier this year, MacDonald, 31, followed suit only a few weeks ago, and romantics. Boyle, the director, who is now 40, is a little more cautious. "I do believe in true love but I'm a bit older so I try not to talk about it too much." Another element the film has in common with the trio's

previous work is Boyle's strikingly cinematic visual style, which looks as though every shot has been carefully crafted their own." and storyboarded in the method of film makers such as Brian de Palma, in reality

photography, Brian Turano, work very spontaneously and "on the hoof", often shooting only one take. For this film, their first outside Scotland, they had a much bigger canvas to paint on - the wide open spaces of Utah. "It's a great place to tell a Boyle enthuses. There's a visual vocabulary

Boyle and his director of

that people accept about America. You can move effortlessly through a cut from one to a huge wilderness, and you accept that they are next door to each other. That's very helpful and useful in this story. What we wanted to do was a film that's a product of both cultures. People here might see it as a British movie set in America, people in America can take it as one of

there are sound commercial as well as creative reasons for tting the story in America. "American actors are what the world wants to see, like it or hate it, even nonfamous American actors, just because the popular vocabulary of film has been created by and set in America," Mac-Donald says. Many Europeans have worked there and lots of nationalities have helped to create it, but it was American studios that put it

all over the world." the only one who can be said to have film in his blood. Hodge was a doctor when he and MacDonald first met at the Edinburgh Film Festival and had the conversation which led to Shallow Grave. Boyle, whose first film that was, had worked in theatre with Joint Stock, the Royal Court and the RSC before moving to television. MacDonald started in the film business in the mid Eighties, working as assistant director and location manager before forming his own company. He is also the grandson of Emeric Pressburger, who with Michael Powell formed a legendary creative team. And although in theory the trio have their separate roles, when talking about their work they constantly use the first

person plural. Because we work together we share some of the problems and solutions," explains Mac-Donald. "Ultimately of course somebody has to write and somebody has to direct, and somebody has to make the deals with the distributor and decide how much everybody's getting paid and when we're opening the film. But we just try to talk about it with each other, which believe me does not happen very often with other film-makers."

Because Shallow Grave was finished more than a year before its release in 1995, by which time Hodge had started writing A Life Less Ordinary and work on Trainspotting was well under way, the team

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

appear to have been extraordinarily productive. They are currently developing what they describe as a "portmanteau film", Alien Love Triangie, three short stories about human/alien loving relationships. Meanwhile. Hodge is about to start work on the screenplay of Alex Garland's novel The Beach, a project brought to the table by Boyle. But as MacDonald points out, you need a minimum of two years to develop a script, film it and get it to the screen, so fans of the "gang of three" will have a while to wait.

■ A Life Less Ordinary opens on

Off to a good start

CHARLES IVES'S The Unanswered Question begins -when it is done properly with muted strings sustaining an ethereal chord offstage. There is no more evocative opening to be heard in the repertoire, except perhaps for the strains of the Parsifal Prelude wafting up from the 'mystic abyss" at Bayreuth.

It was an inspired way for Leonard Slatkin and his National Symphony Orchestra of Washington to open their concert, the first in the London International Orchestral Season. It was interesting, too, to hear Central Park in the Dark, conceived by Ives as a

CONCERT 50/Slatkin Festival Hall

companion piece to The Unanswered Question, follow on directly, maintaining the mood of introspection. Both maintaining pieces were executed meticulously, the complex rhythms of the second benefiting from Elizabeth Schulze's attentions as associate conductor.

Joseph Schwantner's Percussion Concerto leaves two dominant impressions: an exotic array of percussion, including a tam-tam lowered into a large vessel of water, and an irrepressible emission of energy. So abandoned was Evelyn Glennie's performance that her sticks gradually disintegrated in her final, frenzied cadenza. Continuing in an unbroken flow, first with hands alone and then with a miraculously appearing secand, sturdier pair of sticks, she and the orchestra brought this high-octane performance to a resounding close.

Much as one admires Schwantner's control of a head of steam, it was good to return to the traditional values of melodic and harmonic develonment in Aaron Copland's Symphony No 3. With its characteristically expansive idiom and its working out of the familiar Fanfare for the Common Man material, this is a piece that could be done far more often in this country

> BARRY MILLINGTON

Reich's airship in need of more lift

IT IS not the first time a composer has failed to finish a commission. But Steve Reich has made a habit of presenting works that stop in their tracks. Proverb, heard in full on Sunday, began life as a halffinished Proms commission. Then we should have heard Act I of his new documentary video opera; Three Tales "Hindenburg". In fact, we heard only the first two scenes.

of Reich's music that he was happy to bring just 14 out of 30 proposed minutes to Europe. He has said that he approached this work. as a composer would, wanting to get in his material and -outta my way". So how much was the "composer" Reich in charge, as opposed to the technician meshing video. speech, computer tracks and live parts together, and what was in the way?

The ultimate aim of the opera is to engage in a debate about the growth and implicacentury. This part dealt with Paul von Hindenburg, last President of the Weimar Republic and the man whose name was on the airship that crashed at New York in 1937, a Nazi swastika on its tail.

It is a richly Reichian concoction, full of mythic possibility. Beryl Korot's well-crafted video enabled us to see dramatic footage and Reich, for whom documentary speech is as much a part of his inspiraion and texture as folk song was to Bartok, has involved voices — but doesn't take his



cue from them. He has tried to avoid the start-stop qualitywhich the voices imposed on The Cave: Yet much of the tresh impetus of Reich's music comes from speech patterns: when the music itself leads, it Scene I succeeds, with three

tenors singing in canon the bombastic words of the German Ambassador, "it could not have been a technical matter". As the key changes, notes lengthen, the video slows and a reporter's voice is stretched under the singing into an eerie whine, giving the statement a pleading quality. In the second part, however,

when armies march by and contemporary commentators chords are overwhelmed by the messages hurled across the screen. There is also a tured: this isn't documentary opera, it's practically Panorama. Three Tales will need some stronger musical material to build up a focused momentum, as Reich did so brilliantly in works like Music for 18 Musicians, which was given a breezy performance here by Bradley Lubman and the Ensemble Modern.

HELEN WALLACE

THE JOHN DAVIES GALLERY STOW ON THE WOLD From November 1st-22nd LIONEL AGGETT EXHIBITION 'A Spanish Daybook' 50 Landscapes from the Artist's recent Iberian Tour. Prices £600 - £3,500. Full colour catalogue £5 Call: 01451 831698 or Fac: 832477

A guide to the best available recordings. presented in conjunction with Radio 3

OFFENBACH OPERETTAS Reviewed by Petrick O'Conno

ROSSINI called Offenbach "the Mozart of the Champs-Elysées", and the task facing recording artists is to find a balance between the typically Parisian musical-theatre style and enough opera to do justice to the music.

Michel Plasson with the

Toulouse Capitole Orchestra has recorded the five most celebrated full-length operettas composed by Offenbach in his years of unchallenged success as the leading Boule-vard composer. Orphée aux enfers (EMI CDS7 49647 2) benefits from Michel Senechal in the title role, with Mady Nesple as Euridice. This is the only complete recording available in French; but on EMI's budget Belle Epoque series there is a two-CD set of highlights recorded in the 1950s, conducted by Jules Gressier, in which Orphée is heard alongside extracts from La Belle Hélène and La Vie Parisienne. The singing actors are the sort of players who moved naturally from the Opera Comique to the Boulevard theatres, and they seem to have the style absolutely right (EMI CZS7 67515 2, £9.99).

Of the other Plasson sets La Belle Hélène is perhaps the most successful, with a surprisingly idiomatic performance from Jessye Norman in the title role (EMI OOS7 47157 8). La Vie Parisienne (EMI CDS7 477154 8) is Offenbach's most infectiously tuneful score. Plasson's version is marred by an echo-laden acoustic. A import on Musidisc (MU 650, distributed by Discovery Records) enshrines the 1959 production

BUILDING LIBRARY

with Jean-Louis Barrault and Madeleine Renaud.

La Grande Duchesse de Gérolstein (Sony SMZK 62583) has Régine Crespin in formidable guise as the maneating Duchess. This Plasson recording is preferable in every way to a noisy "live version" with Lucia Valentini-Terrami (Dynamic). Plasson's recording of La Périchole with Teresa Berganza and Jose Carreras is a fine achievement, but is just upstaged by an older one on Erato, conducted by Alain Lombard. with Crespin, Alain Vanzo and Jules Bastin (Erato 2292 45686 2. £19.99) which, though shorn of dialogue, comes nearest to the ideal Offenbach feel.

There are several rarities

available, of which Manuel Rosenthal's triple bill Vive Offenbach (EMI CDS7 4936) 2), comprising Pomme d'Api, Monsieur Choufleuri and Mesdames de la Halle, is a fascinating glimpse of Offenbach's unknown body of work. A medium price anthology, The World of Offenbach (Dec-ca 452 942 2), includes many fine modern performances, among them Joan Sutherland's glittering waltz-song from Robinson Crusoe. Of the many orchestral discs available, Offenbach Overtures and Ballets conducted by the late Antonio de Almeida is a rich selection of little-known pieces (Philips 422 057 2).

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Wycozobe Sommit Ski & Snowboard Centre, High Wycombe, Bucks: Tel: 01494 4/4711 one-hour ski lesson £15—£7.50; practice £8.50—£4.25; one-hour snowboard ing lesson E25-E12.50 Sandown Ski Club, Esher, Surrey Tel: 01372 468318; 3 xthr Beginners' Ski Course ES6—E27.50; Open Practice Ski (no non-skiers) E7—E3.50 Romonn Ski Centre, Runcorn, Cheshire. Tel: 01928 701965; Beginners' Ski leston 121-E10.50; Beginners' snowboard lesson 622.25-611.12 Tallington Ski & Course, Nr Standard, Lines, Tel: 01778 344990 lbr ski tesser lesson E11—E5.50: snowboard tester lesson E12—E6; ski recreational/weekday to 6 pm \$6.50—53.25; snowhoard/weekend & eve \$7.50—53.75. John Niite Leisurespoo Complex, Bracknell, Berks Tel: 01344 860033; Chatham, Kera, Tel: 01634 827979; Plymouth, Deson, Tel: 01752 600220; Swadlincote, Derbyshire Tel: 01283 217200; 3 x 1% hr ski Jessons incl hire of boots/skis 539-519.50; 3xlhr snowboard incl hire of boots/board £39--£19.50. Note that the John Nike Centres are group lessons minimum four persons. The Sustainme, Tamworth, Staffs, Tel: 0990 000011; a "real snow" experience. Ski or snowboard recreational 1 hr £14-£7; one-hour ski jesson 520-£10; one-hour snowboard Jesson 522.50-£11.25.

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TO £65,000 Spublished conclumentaal City Sem with a strong corporate Sintece rescion is looking for an audistant policies? with as feast, it years' allower contributes. Uncaselly for a Sem of this size and orisonator.

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THE USE OF THE CHIEF WAR AND ASSESSED TO BE A SECURE OF THE CHIEF OF T operinen of immensen dispolar, international trade or commod VII play is, constructed role addate; audier summenten ternational dilates and disputes, Rabund work owleaning intel London with apparantifies to strail and grow-the intatos. Photosis of 3 years' superience required (Ref.16766)

What was case a niche practice has espandoù capidly in recent,

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Andy Carifield or Yvanne Smyth (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-523 3838 (01463-828110 Aveelends). For in-house vacancies please contact Yaarnin Phillips on 0171-523 3822 enternatal cur vertex on us as 2016. Recruit andon BC2M 2PY Confidential fire 0171-573 3839. E-mail and extilization on air.



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LAW

NO WIN, NO WIN? 41

INSURANCE DOUBT 41

Education litigation undermines heads and misleads parents, says Robert Boyd

Leave those schools alone

tudents are threatening to sue examination boards over the re-marking of disputed A-level papers after a record number of appeals against grades this summer. Some want to claim for the extra costs they will incur after missing the last free university places: those waiting for appeal results face the introduction of annual £1,000 tuition fees next October.

This is the the latest example of what some lawyers claim is an explosion of litigation in the world of education. The week before, it emerged that three students were suing parents for financial support. Those claims are not against educational establishments themselves, but many others have

The recent award of damages against the school authority that failed to diagnose Pamela Phelps's dyslexia. leaving her with a reading age of seven, was a legal landmark. The £45,000 award marked the first time in which a court has awarded damages for undetected dyslexia.

other dyslexia-related claims: will follow. Undetected learning difficulties and bullying, which was also involved in the Phelps case, are two areas in which schools can leave themselves open to litigation. ...

But is it true to say that we are entering an era in which expensive, American-style lawsuits will become a feature system onto educate him to his of the British education sys-

replaced the ambulance as the most likely vehicle for lawyers to chase for new business, particularly as the school bus actions where there is nothing

to lose and everything to gain. Sadly, however, the growing culture of schools-bashing, and the notion that if there is disappointment then someone else is to blame, means that parents and pupils are misled,

dence and morale of the heads and teachers are undermined. where education and other consumer claims are con-cerned, the law in Britain is

almost as far from that in America as it can be. It is much harder to prove negligence under the UK system than it is in most parts of the US, and the procedures and methods of quantifying damages are different by light years. There are few kinds of claim against a school that would be capable even of attracting damages, let alone a large award, in this country.

hopes of damages for examination disappointments ignore the words of Lord Justice Evans in the 1994 Keating case: "A mere allegation that with better teaching the child would have achieved improved examination results or a more highly paid career is unlikely to lead to damages." In the same case, it was also

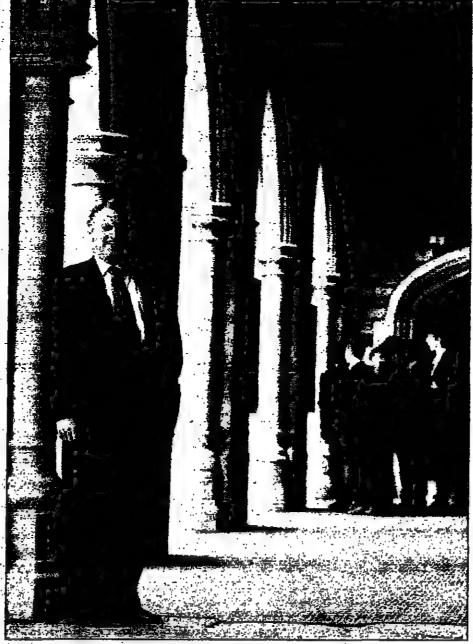
Lawyers who raise false

pointed out that teachers cannot rectify inequalities of endowment between one pupil There seems little doubt that and the another.

> arlier, in a case known as ex parte H (1985), Lord Justice Slade put this even more clearly: "There is no question of an obligation to provide a child with the best possible education. There is no duty to provide such a Utopian. maximum potential "

Similarly, Joanna Fiolloway The fact that some lawyers of the City University of predict a litigation landslide is London, commenting on the largely explained by the fact Keating case, showed com-that the "school bus" has now mon sense in saying that educating children is not as straightforward as manufacturing products, Every child is unique. There can be no guarantee that tried and tested eaching techniques will bene-

This sensible approach to what is expected of a British school is reflected in the outcome of cases brought by parents against schools in recent years. My own firm, for



Robert Boyd at Chifton College, Bristol. Address the teacher, he says -- not a lawyer

instance, advises more than 500 independent schools and deals with about 1,500 parental disputes each year, of which about 10,000 have produced some degree of litiga-tion over the past decade. More than 95 per cent of the defended cases have been resolved in favour of the school.

At the root of many of these cases is a claim by the school for unpaid fees. In response, parents often raise a complaint about teaching standards or pastoral care which was never mentioned before. And just as there is no shortage of lawyers eager to exploit parent-school divisions, so are there educational psychologists able to invent a designer disorder that the school supposedly should have spotted and dealt with earlier.

I am not talking of the relatively few cases in which gross abnormalities have gone undetected, or the anguish of persistent and conbullying, but of certed

> names that law firms can use, so that they can call them-

> selves almost anything they-like. Before reaching its deci-

sion, the society consulted the profession — to find it hope-

ssly divided on the issue.

"It is high time the profes-

said one respondent.

sion got rid of antiquated

"We should move forward."

should waste your time and

spend our money on such foo-

tling points." And a third

added: "The sooner we abolish

'marketing' and go back to a

'no advertising' era, the better.

However, I have absolutely no faith in my views being widely supported and therefore I am

ordering my flashing neon

sign to advertise my new

name, which will be 'Quick

psycho-babble such as "sereaching for their lawvers. It mantic processing diffimay be that the child is not culties", which was recently suited to the school or that used — successfully — as a there is a problem at the school that needs to be adstrategy by parents to avoid paying the sees they owed.

Alleged psychological injury is another entry on the lists. In one case earlier this year, parents who owed an independent school £8,000 in unpaid fees sued on the basis of a report from a psychiatrist who claimed that the pupil concerned had suffered an "adjustment disorder examination results

he case went to court but was dismissed on the ground that it was scandalous, frivolous, vexatious and an abuse

In the face of such clear legal evidence, parents would do far better to learn how to deal with teachers in identifying the real cause of problems rather than

■ The Bar Council and the Lord Chancellor's Advisory

It needs communication and mutual understanding, not litigious parents or predatory lawvers.

● The author is head of the Schools Unit at the Bristol-based

Like all relationships, that

between a school and its

pupils is delicate and sensitive.

Biting study of the legal profession

PANNICK QC

B arristers regularly encounter murder in their professional lives, prosecuting or defending at a minute. or defending at a criminal trial, arguing for compensation for relatives of the deceased, or making submissions about the possible release of the offender on life licence. In P.D. James's entertaining new novel, A Certain Justice (Faber & Faber, £15.99), the legal profession comes into closer contact with homicide when a barrister is knifed to death at 8 Pawlet Court, Middle Temple.

Venetia Aldridge, QC, "one of the country's most formidable cross examiners", is found dead in her room in chambers by her senior cierk, a full-bottomed ceremonial wig on her head, her brief in a forthcoming grievous bodily harm trial open on her desk. Conscious of the proprieties, the senior clerk knows that "there was a higher priority even than the police; he had to ring Head of

When Commander Adam Dalgliesh and

Detective Inspector Kate Miskin arrive, they learn that the suspects include a number of other barristers. Venetia was threatening to report a mem-ber of her chambers for a serious breach of professional standards ("if this got about, even as a rumour, he would never take silk). She was competing with another col-league to become head of chambers. A barrisle Member of Parliament had recently ended an affair with Venetia at his wife's insistence.

Several other barristers have their own selfish reasons for not regretting Venetia's death. So does a female pupil whom Venetia intended to veto for a place in chambers, and the

senior clerk she was to replace with a practice manager. Among the other suspects are Garry Ashe, recently acquitted at the Old Bailey on a murder charge, against which he had been defended by Ms Aldridge, since when he has begun to live with her 18-yearold daughter, causing considerable concern to Venetia. Much of A Certain Justice is a biting study

of the legal profession. The Head of Chambers tries to recall a rumour, but "like so much else, it had escaped him*. Venetia had rarely been present at significant moments in her child's life because "there was always a court attendance, a meeting in chambers. something which couldn't be put off. Too many prosecuting counsel "could never believe that a jury could take in any fact that hadn't been explained to them three times".

On occasions, the author's homework lets her down. It is implausible that becoming head of chambers "would be important" to a lawyer like Venetia, or that any barrister would contemplate killing a rival, or be

burdensome role. No doubt Venetia and her lover wanted to keep their affair secret, but how had it "helped that he was a member of Lincoln's Inn, not the Middle Temple"? Who is the model for the superhuman Mr Justice Moorcroft, whose ability to sum up to the jury was so good that there had never been a successful appeal in one of his cases?

P.D. James is interested in the professional ethics of the defence lawyer. Venetia saw her role in unambiguous terms: "It was simply to win." When she warns her daughter that Octavia replies: "So why did you get him off?"
This professional detachment is mirrored

in the novel by the absence of warmth in the personal relations between the lawyers. Ms Aldridge was stabbed in the heart, but it was evidently not the most vital organ. There were many who had admired Venetia Aldridge but "few who had liked her". The

Head of Chambers reflects of know them". None of the barristers offers any assistance to their receptionist when her young brother is being prosecuted for supplying a small quantity of cannabis. A Certain Justice presents a

uniformly unflattering picture of selfish harristers whose only human virtue is a willingness to recognise that "being difficult in chambers is practically an art-form". There would be no room at 8 Pawlet Court for the prosecuting counsel who, during a case at the Old Bailey earlier this month, broke down while reading out details of the systematic torture of a baby by the defendant.

The egolsm and narcissism that James associates with the legal profession are made starker by the contrast with the compassion which Dalgliesh and Miskin show for those afflicted by tragedy.

hen Dalgliesh wishes to avoid emotional involvement emotional involvement, it is because the pressures of the job make it "necessary to grow a carapace, however fragile, of acceptance and detachment if one was to remain competent and sane". The author does not recognise that a similar plea in mitigation might be made on behalf of barristers.

James knows that a criminal trial "wasn't designed — how could it be? — to elicit the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth". The same is true of a detective novel, however skilful and enthralling it may be. The Bar pleads not guilty as charged in this indictment.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

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include European cross-border transactions

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Noble lord ducks the questions

LORD IRVINE of Lairg was greeted with polite applause rather than rotten eggs at the Law Society conference in Cardiff on Saturday, despite the leaking of his entire speech 24 hours in advance, and his remark that the legal profession had done nothing "other than to fall lower and lower in public estimation" in recent years. But solicitors were unimpressed by his decision not to sit on the question panel afterwards, as agreed months before by his predecessor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern.

Disputes

Lord Falconer of Thoroton, the new and refreshingly out-spoken Solicitor-General, was expected to be the replacement. But he suddenly found that he had urgent business in London. Step forward Roger Smith, director of the Legal Action Group — and probably the most articulate critic of the Lord Chancellor's legal reforms. Touché.

Defence policy ONE RESULT of the leaking of Lord Irvine's reforms was

that the keynote speech by



Lord Irvine: polite applause

ciety President, was eclipsed. So only solicitors present at with a public defender system. If defendants were repre-

an experiment · ·

Phillip Sycamore, the Law Sothe conference will have noted that he favours experimenting

sented by lawyers they had freely chosen, who acted independently in their clients' interests and had the resources to do a proper job, there was, he said, no reason to oppose

Name game THE DAYS of Sue, Grabbit & Runne may be over. The Law

Nominations for most amusing law firm names - if genuine, so much the better to Scrivenor.

 Changing sides: Robert Venables, the head of the Charity Commission's legal division for eight years, has become a consultant with the firm of Bircham & Co, which Society is to abolish most respecialises in charity law. strictions governing the

Fix Legal Services"."

Committee on Legal Education and Conduct (Aclec) are engaged in a war of attrition over the need for continuing education for barristers. And like most issues involving Aclec, it looks set to run and run - probably well into the next century. The Bar Council is already introducing a new programme of continuing education for barristers of up to three years' call. But that is not enough for Aclec, which has called on the scheme to be Another said: "It is pathetic that you and your colleagues extended. Now the Bar Council has decided that an extension of its compulsory programme "ought to wait up-on a detailed appraisal of the present programme, which cannot realistically be done

Never better

before 2000".

THE IN-HOUSE magazine for CPS staff, the CPS Journal, has launched a new counselling-and-support column. "How do you feel today? OK? Not bad? Or Great?" it begins.

Of course, if the reader is a lawyer, he or she is probably feeling none of these — just plain miserable. A MORI survey of CPS lawyers, commissioned a year ago, uncovered unprecedented levels of job dissatisfaction.

STEUART & FRANCIS

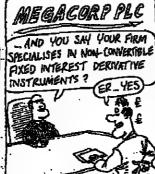
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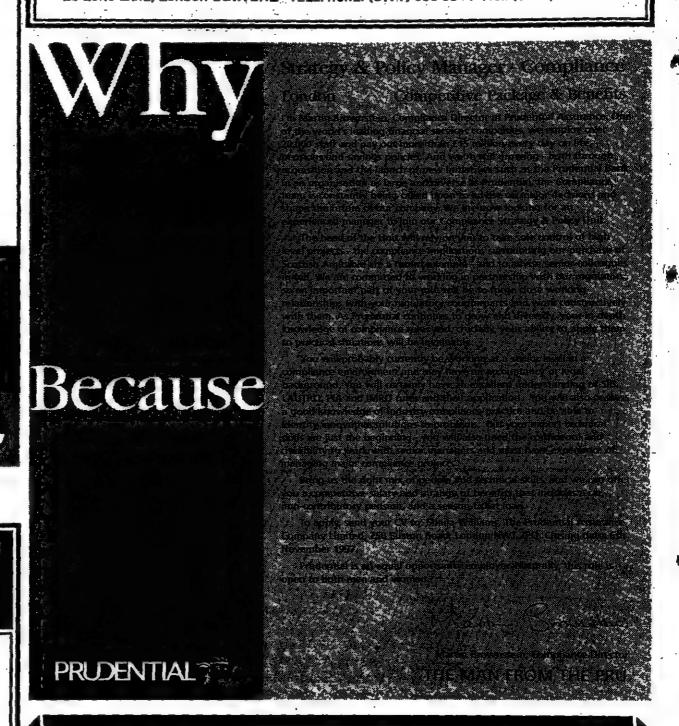
IN-HOUSE **MEDIA**

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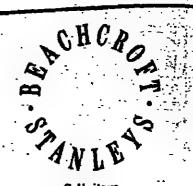
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Appointments are for one law term (Easter/Trimity counting as one term) or for three law terms. sful candidates will start from either 12 January, 1998 or 21 April, 1998. Further appoint will be made thereafter as of part of a rolling programme.

Successful candidates will be required to produce written summaries of cases, to identify key insues, evidence and documents, to research the applicable statute and case law and to work alongside the Lords Justices. They will have demonstrated very high intellectual ability, inclaiveness and a capacity to work under pressure as part of a team. Basic word processing skills are essential.

Appointments for one term will be made on the basis of two-and-a-half days a week with flexibility as to how such time is spread throughout the week. Those for three terms will be on a five day week basis. Remaneration is currently at £59.73 per day (pay review pending).

Applicants must be practitioners who have completed 12 month's pupillage/trainceship. The General Council of the Bar and the Law Society will each select a shortlist for interviews which will take place in early December, 1997.

A tight timetable applies. Barristens should apply to Douglas Day QC, The General Council of the Bar, 3 Bedford Row, London WCIR 4DB. Solicitors should apply to Suzanne Burn, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A IPL. Telephone enquiries can be made to Paula Gay on

Applications together with a full CV must be received by 12 November, 1997.

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Applicants must have held a right of audience in any class of proceedings in the Supreme Court, or in all proceedings in the county courts or Magistrates' Courts for a period of 7 years on 1 April 1998. They should normally be aged between 40 and 65. Previous relevant experience for both of the posts is essential and previous experience in a judicial role is desirable.

The salary for the President of the Lands Tribunal post is £80,176 rising to £83,586 on 1 December 1997, and for the President of the Pensions Appeal Tribunal £66,889 rising to £69,354 on 1 December 1997 (the latter post attracts an additional payment of £2000 London

To each of the posts the Lord Chancellor will appoint the candidate who appears to him to be best qualified regardless of etimic origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion or (subject to the physical requirements of the office) disability.

An application form, together with a job description and note of the criteria for each of the appointments, and further information for applicants is available by telephoning 0171 210 1464 (an answering machine will operate outside normal office hours) or by writing to:

JAD 2 (Applications Unit) Lord Chancellor's Department Selborne House, 54/60 Victoria Street LONDON SWIE 6QW

When calling or writing, it is essential that applicants state whether they are interested in either or both of the posts.

Completed application forms must be returned by noon on 28 November 1997.

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isational and problem solving skills are essential. For an application form and brief discussion, please telephone

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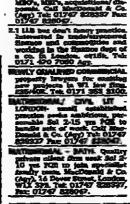
law firm, invites applications for a Mutual Funds Lawyer and a Commercial Lawyer. Applicants for both positions should have a

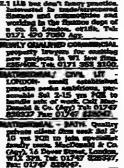
minimum of four years post qualification experience with a City or other law firm with a substantial international practice. Applicants for the Mutual Funds Lawyer position should have substantial experience in corporate and unit trust vehicles for collective investment schemes. Stock exchange listing experience would also be an advantage. Applicants for the Commercial Lawyer position should have experience in asset finance, banking, joint ventures and corporate matters.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY OCTOBER 21 1997

Benedict Birnberg calls for a community legal service on NHS lines and, right, Nick Hilborne on the insurance problem

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A shot of success for legal aid

ceptable policy for the delivery of legal services must be access for all, not least because fair administration of justice guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights, which the Government is to incorporate into UK law, implies that each party to a civil or criminal proceeding should have an equal opportunity to present his case and neither should enjoy any substan-

tial advantage over his opponent. The legal aid scheme, set up nearly 50 years ago, is failing to meet that requirement. Yet last weekend, Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, whose expressed aim is a legal system which "operates in the best interests of the whole community, not just the financial interests of the legal profession", unveiled the Government's plans — a drastic curtailment of the scheme, expansion of "no win, no fee" litigation and

obligatory insurance - which will do the exact opposite, reduce access to justice, drive accially responsible lawyers out of business and boost the earnings of the less scrupu-

I believe that the time has come for radical and imaginative initiatives which would really benefit the

The postwar Attlee Government devised very different solutions to the problems of health and justice: It promugated an NHS of salaried doctors but legal aid was channelled through a legal profession that remained privatised and profit-making and catered largely to the private client.

Let us now emulate the success of the NHS, replacing the public funding of individual solicitors and barristers, by creating the infrastructure for a genuine community legal service (CLS) of salaried personnel administered by a legal services commission independent of central or local government.

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The CLS would have offices with a proper geographic spread, unlike the distribution of private practitio-ners, and staffed by highly qua-lified lawyers in all fields. They would be backed up by in-house

The service would provide the whole range of services now provided privately, serving both the fee-paying client and those unable to pay. It would have a scaled-down public subsidy. The analogy is the NHS general practitioner. But whereas the NHS relies on the taxpayer, I envisage a large part of the cost of the CLS being met by the private client, although the initial

have to come from public funds. At first, the proposition may seem unrealistic, but consider the history. The legal aid scheme was devised when the country was impoverished after the war, and GDP was relatively small. Real incomes today are almost three times what they were about 50 years ago. The average private client is better able to contribute to the cost of our.

cost of setting up the scheme would

'A lot of the cost of an NHS-type legal aid system would be met by the client'

> legal services, although admittedly the 20 per cent of our population that can be described as poor would need the subsidy that the rest of the community can afford, either through contributions paid by the private client or through a reduced state subsidy to the CLS.

Everyone would have access to a CLS office. Certain classes of work, such as conveyancing and commercial, would be entirely feepaying. The fees would be based either on a scale or charged at a time rate, and all other services would be means-tested with a reasonably high threshold so as not to deter a client. Contingency fees and legal insurance might be two — but not the only - methods of funding

The CLS would initially compete with solicitors' practices, but within a short time most private practices - those with up to 25 partners whose proportion of legal aid receipts in 1994 to 1995 varied between 17 per cent and 40 per cent.

deprived of legal aid and in com-petition with the CLS - would cease to practise, and their staffs would be absorbed into the CLS.

There would remain solicitors to cater for the wealthy corporate and

I expect that most barristers will ultimately be absorbed into the CLS. The two branches of the profession would probably fuse although there would remain a residual independent Bar of spe-cialists; a natural corollary of what I advocate would be the withering away of the legal profession as we

The Law Society and Bar Council would be wary of such a scheme. But in the next two decades or so the profession is certain to come under pressures, with less public money via legal aid subsidies and asing competition squeezing profit margins. Already, we have seen a large fall in fee

income from conveyancing.

Small firms of solicitors are in a precarious financial postion, struggling to make a profit. The average partner in a solicitor's practice can look to receive a profit of between £30,000 and £60,000, com-

mensurate with doctors' salaries. Measures to streamline the law, like the Woolf civil procedure reforms, rightly endorsed by Lord irvine, alternative dispute resolution in place of litigation, competition from licensed conveyancers and other paralegals, as well as the information technology revolution will all reduce lawyers' work

Many, I think, will prefer the security of structured, salaried employment to the increasingly competitive market in which private practice will operate. Many will also prefer the greater flexibility in working arrangements and there-fore job satisfaction to the great and unfair disparities in remuneration between those engaged in work paid for privately and publicly that will only increase if the Government's reported proposals are put into effect.

The author is the senior partner of



A diagnosis of the legal aid system and "no win, no fee" proposals suggests that radical surgery is needed, says Benedict Birnberg

No win, no fee: what the client must pay anyway

ment plans to expand conditional fees, little attention has been paid to the problem of insurance. But as litigants will be naturally wary of incurring unlimited costs if they lose a case, it will be the availability of insurance to cover such losses which may ultimately determine the success and scope of "nowin, no-fee litigation.

Personal injury actions backed by the Law Society's Accident Line Protect insurance scheme have accounted for most conditional fee cases. More than 26,500 policies have been issued. The scheme's brokers, Johnson & Higgins Marsh & McLellan, recently announced an 86 per cent increase in premiums for all cases, apart from road traffic accidents. Next month, more than two years since con-

ditional fees for this area of litigation were introduced, a Law Society-endorsed insurance package is to be launched for medical negligence cases. Unlike Accident Line Protect, the package will offer individual not flatrate premiums.

Peter Brown, special operations director at Johnson & Higgins, says: "With road traffic accidents, in particular, the chances of success are reasonably clear from an early stage. Medical negligence is much less predictable. There always seems to be one or two elements which skew the chances of success. Every scenario we've looked at has differences in it. Flat-rate premiums have proved impossible.

Mr Brown said his firm had started to consider how new areas of litigation could be insured for conditional fees. "The problem is how to define success. Until that problem is remedied — and I don't know if it can be by insurance people; it's really up to the lawyers it will be very difficult to design an insurance safety net. Everyone agrees that it would be a good idea extend conditional fees in theory. When you apply your mind to it. things are not that simple. What we are saying to the Lord Chancellor is: 'Don't widen conditional fees

an afterthought."

Brian Raincock, director of Litigation Protection, which also insures conditional fees, said his firm had solved the problem of insuring medical negligence by hiring independent experts to decide which cases had a good chance. To help to ensure that solicitors were experienced in the field, lower premiums were offered to members of the Action for Victims of Medical

Accidents panel. Mr Raincock said he was looking forward to a future where conditional fees were available in most areas of civil litigation, "Personal injury is one of the simplest areas to insure because liability is so easy to establish," he said. "Libel would be much more difficult. I'm not sure

it's appropriate for in-SULTANCE. Conditional fees are also not suitable Access to for large commercial cases. Solicitors are unjustice likely to be prepared to work on a case for two could be years without being paid for it. One solution might be to impose a reduced cap on the size of damages claims, so you in-

sure only those cases worth less than £250,000. You would need a system of vetting commercial cases, possibly using another insurer."

The Chairman of the Bar Council, Robert Owen, QC, who launched a stinging attack on conditional fees in his speech to the annual Bar conference last month and last week in The Times, called for more research before the scheme was extended. "The whole success of the conditional fee scheme depends on insurance." he said. "It's a difficult risk to underwrite. I don't think we have enough experience yet to know whether insurers will find it a commercially viable option.

There is a danger that if conditional fees are allowed to supplant legal aid, we will see a serious reduction in access to justice. It is all very well to talk about extending conditional fees, but mechanisms, such as insurance, must be in place before members of the public can exercise their rights."

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guide to the millennium computer time bomb, with a checklist on guarding against computers crashing if they cannot cope with the when the Berlin Wall came down year change to 2000. It costs 27, but and former Iron Curtain countries NatWest customers pay only £2 were moving towards democracy, a postage and package. Contact your small group of young British. business people planned a positive contribution to the new spirit of ☐ BT is offering a reduced connection charge of £49.50 plus value enterprise that was emerging in

Eastern and Central Europe. Many more ambitious schemes have since sunk without trace, but Enterprise Europe goes from strength to strength. The registered charity provides practical business placements in small and mediumsized UK companies for young entrepreneurs from Eastern and Central Europe. It has more than 100 placements to its credit, resulting in two company start-ups and four joint ventures, with others in

The scheme aims to bring benefits to the host company and the entrepreneur. Among the many success stories is the experience of Armorex, a specialist flooring manufacturer in Suffolk. In 1993 the company played host to Jan Svab, a young entrepreneur from the Czech Republic, who returned home to Brno to set up as an Armorex distributor and is now its number one distributor worldwide.

The founders of Enterprise Europe were determined to set it up on a sound basis, Neil Sherlock, one of the original group and now director of communications for KPMG, said: "Colin Sharman, then UK senior partner at KPMG, was very supportive, advising on an organisational structure which would be professional and credi-

Enterprise Europe assembled an mpressive list of patrons — John Smith, and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Lord Owen and Lord Howe of Aberavon. The organisation was issunched at a fundraising dinner in 1990 hosted by Lord Howe, who had been Foreign Secretary during the per-iod when democracy was developing in Eastern European countries.

For the first nine mouths Enterprise Europe was run by its 14 founders voluntarily in their spare time. All in their mid-twenties, they worked in business, the media, politics and management consultancy and used their contacts to



The fall of the Berlin Wall helped to lift the spirit of free enterprise in Eastern Europe

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establish links with suitable organisations and to raise funds to sponsor a full-time organiser. The oup targeted counterparts in Hungary, Poland and the then-Czechoslovakia, Russia, Ukraine and Georgia have recently been added to the list.

Pippa Markus, a founder and Enterprise Europe's director and sole employee for the first five years, recalls EE's first placement. When Roman Dubravsky arrived from Bratislava we were both equally nervous because months of careful planning were finally put to the test," she said. "Six years on, Roman heads his own successful

company in Bratislava and his host

company, Onduline, operates in

Central Europe and Russia as a

result of its EE contacts." Ms Markus added: "Large organisations have the resources to pursue overseas marketing, but smaller companies, which are often very keen, lack the experience and the funds. They need a helping

Europe handles all the details, A CONFERENCE on exporting to Poland will be held at the Polish including the trainee's travel and accommodation arrangements and provides support and advice for Centre in Hammerspith, West London, on October 29. The organisers are Polish Business, a trainet and host, group that promotes trade be-Ms Markus sees EE's role as tween Britain and Poland, and the matchmaker and hand-holder. She Institute of Export, with governsaid: "We can meet everyone in a

small company and get a clear idea of how the trainee will fit in. Often For further information, telephone the host company will need reassurance because it's a big step to take on someone from a totally difference business culture." lish relationships for export business. We also focused on the small Neil Lewis, managing director of Lloyd Lewis World Trade, which is business sector because many of the entrepreneurs planned to set up their own business. Working for playing host to its third EE trainee. has no doubts about the benefits.

He said: "Any small business should grab the chance with both large organisations was a tremendous experience, but didn't have hands. There's no way that my company could afford a speculative There are no costs for the host company. Funding comes from the foray into Eastern European mar-EU, the British Government's kets, but Enterprise Europe offers a Know-How Pund, the Thatcher fantastic opportunity - and when it works, it really pays off." Foundation and corporate supporters such as Marks & Spencer.

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ess in this repid growth service industry.

WHEN Pavel Nyc, from Prague, spent ten days with Oyster Books, of Badgeworth, Somerset, he helped Timothy Wood, the managing director, to set up a new database that has revolutionised the company's systems.

Mr Wood said: "Pavel came through Enterprise Europe to find

out about publishing in the UK, but we also learnt a lot from him. He is a computer whiz-kid whose own company runs on interlinked databases. He introduced new ideas into our company about how we can organise the business." Mr Wood heard of the Enter-

prise Europe scheme through his local Business Link. He specified a placement who was young and energetic with a similar business background. Mr Nyc was suggested, and the pair met at the Frankfurt Book Fair. They got on well immediately. Mr Wood said: "Enterprise

Europe helped us to put together a timetable for Pavel's visit, which helped to focus our minds on priorities. We arranged for him to meet British publishers, and swapped customer names and suppliers. Both men wrote letters in their

own languages so introduce the other's company to publishers and, as a result, Mr Wood plans to visit the Prague and Warsaw book fairs. Mr Nyc learnt valuable lessons from his visit. "I realised that my organisation was well up with

computer technology, which gave me confidence," he said. "I now appreciate the importance of international sales. Oyster Books do a lot of export business and they gave me valuable coaching in how to sell to Western markets.

Lloyd Lewis World Trade, an import-export business based in Hampshire, also got some immediate benefits through the Enterprise Europe scheme. During Andrei Yurov's 1996 placement, Lloyd Lewis sent its first container of foodstuffs to his company in St Petersburg, and now trade between the two is flourishing.

Neil Lewis, of Lloyd Lewis, said: "Andrei is now our man on the spot. It has opened his eyes to the difficult conditions for anyone doing business in that country. I saw the hardships that people like Andrei are operating under and their constant fight against corrup-tion. Small businesses are on their own - there's no equivalent of the DTI or export advice offices."

Mr Lewis advises employers to plan a placement carefully, to make the most of it. "I sent Andrel a suggested timetable in advance so that we could tailor-make visits to warehouses which would be of interest to him." he said.

Mr Lewis believes it is important to have a clear objective for an EE placement. Both sides want business out of the placement." he said.



From left, Pavel Nyc and the Oyster Books team Donna Webber, sales manager, and Jenny and Timothy Wood, joint managing directors

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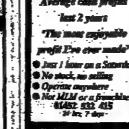
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ICE HOCKEY

Rubachuk

proves calming for

Storm By Norman de Mesquita

MANCHESTER Storm are becoming the overtime experts in the Superleague. On Sunday, they beat Ayr Scottish Eagles 4-3, but it took a goal by Brad Rubachuk in the eighth minute of the extra period to secure the victory.

The win brought great relief to the Storm as their previous five overtime games had brought three deleats and two draws. They lost to Bolzano and Moscow Dynamo in the European League and to Basingstoke Bison in domestic competition. The draws came against Cardiff Devils and

Nottingham Panthers. For Ayr, it was their first overtime game of the season and the point which a team retains for an overtime loss enabled them to stay joint top with Manchester, each teath

In the only other Supereague game played on Sunday, Bracknell Bees beat Basingstoke Bison 5-3. A goal for each side in the first three signalled a closely-fought con-test. Bracknell took the lead in the final minute of the first period but Basingstoke levelled matters in the first

Three goals in just under ten minutes later in the second session for Bracknell proved decisive but their success. as so often, was founded on another fine performance by Mark Bernard, their goaltend-

In the draw for the semifinals of the Benson and Hedges Cup made yesterday, Manchester Storm were handed another encounter with Avr Scottish Eagles, and New-castle Cobras paired with

A more immediate assignment for the Cobras comes tonight when they seek their first Superleague win of the season at Manchester.

EDN AND HEDGES CUP DRAW, finalis: Oct 31: Menchester Storm v loctisin Engliss (7.30), Nov 1: Cardin a v Newcaste Cobres (6.30), Nov 8: matte Cobres v Cardiff Davils (7.0).

LOANS & INVESTMENT BASEBALL: CLEVELAND TIE WORLD SERIES AFTER ESTEFAN'S SERENADE

Gloria sings, Marlins off key

FROM KEITH BLACKMORE IN MIAMI

mound in game two of the World Series here on Sunday night and the Florida Marlins never recovered, going down 6-I to the Cleveland Indians. The best-of-seven series now moves to Cleveland with the scores level at 1-1.

She was not actually pitching of course, and if she had been she would have been playing for the Marlins, not the Indians. She was even wearing a Marlins shirt. decorated front and back with a 32 on it, the number of injured Marlins starter, Alex Fernandez, a hero of the Hispanic community.

Estefan is the nearest thing

that Miami has to royalty so nobody among the 67,000 packed into Pro Player Stadium needed to be asked to stand when she appeared to



sing the national anthem. For the first time in this slowburning World Series, everyone seemed to know what to do. They stood and roared a welcome then fell into a perfect silence as she performed.

Where the teenage trio, Hanson, had somehow struck the wrong note, literally and figuratively, on the opening night, Estafan was in her element from the moment she appeared to the final note of the Star Spangled Banner, but hers was the last contribution anyone in south Florida will want to remember.

The Markins fell behind in the first inning, just as they had done the night before, but this time there was to be no quickly cancelled out the first run but the game slipped irretrievably from their grasp in the fifth inning when the Indians simply nibbled them to death.

First Matt Williams mishit

GLORIA ESTEFAN took the centrefield. Then Sandy Alomar singled. Then Marquis Grissom singled, scoring Williams. Then Bip Roberts singled, scoring both Alomar and Grissom. Suddenly the score was 4-1 and there was no way back. When Alomar heaved a mighty home run into rightfield in the sixth, it was no more than icing on the cake, an appropriate image since he later dedicated it to his father, who was celebrating his 54th birthday.

All this was bitterly disappointing for the Marlins who, having won the opening game, had been in the happy position of coming into game two with their ace, Kevin Brown, rested and ready to take the mound. They would probably have done better with Gloria.

Brown came out spitting fire and throwing heat, hurling a succession of pitches between 91 and 96 miles per hour. But he soon cooled off and by the time he had been lifted at the end of the sixth, he had given up six runs. By contrast Chad Ogea, the

Indians starter, enjoyed a relatively trouble-free outing, although he was lucky to escape a mugging after hitting the Marlins superstar, Gary Sheffield, on the wrist in the first inning with a fastball that kept maving inside. Sheffield, already nursing that hand, leapt about for several minutes in pain and then comfort-ed himself with a series of dirty looks in Ogea's direction, but the threatened brawl never materialised.

Ogea admitted later that he too had fallen under Estafan's spell: "After the national anthem I found I was overthrowto the catchers in the builpen," he said. "I had to tell myself to calm down."

Grissom was the other man with good reason to remember the game. The first of his three hits on the night extended his sequence of hitting safely in all 14 of his World Series games. It is an achievement he shares with one of the greatest names in the sport, Roberto Clemente, who managed the same number for the Pittsburgh Pirates. Only one man has done better in the previous 93



Bip Roberts, the Cleveland second baseman, leaps and throws to complete a double play

Cleveland Florida

The World Series moves to Cleveland for game three tonight four tomorrow and five on Thursday, Games six and seven (if required) will take place in Marni next weekend. The series is being televised live in Britain by Channel 5.

ears of the championship: Hank Bauer managed 17 for the New York Yankees. Grissom could pass him this

Manwhile, the indifference of neutrals to this unexpected pairing in the World Series is beginning to grate with those more closely concerned. Don

for the television network, NBC, who have the rights to broadcast the event this year, actually admitted he was hoping it would all be over in four

games. "The faster it's over with, the better it is," he said.

least there will be a return to one of the recent traditions of the World Series. The warm weather of Miami, how ever appropriate to what Is basically a summer game, is rarely a feature of the grand finale these days.

moves to Cleveland for games

three, four and five and at

The teams will have to make their own heat in Cleveland, where the temperature may be 30 degrees cooler. There is even a forecast of a light snowfall for the game at Jacob's Field tomorrow. If the Indians have any sense, they will ask Gloria Estafan to wrap up warm and throw out

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

× 21 1997 Raiders buck Broncos' winning trend

IT HAD been billed as a battle, a battle between two running backs; so it seemed natural that the one called Napoleon should come out on top. Oakland Raiders' crushing hurtling rampage of a victory condemned the Denver Broncos to their first defeat of the season and roined the only remaining unbeaten record in the Nat-Football League (NFL).

Many had expected the same to be dominated by Terrell Davis, the Broncos rusher, but instead, it was Napoleon Kaufman who jolted the Raiders out of their mid-season mediocrity and inspired them to a surprise win with a superlative rushing performance in California on Sunday.

Kaniman ran for 227 yards, the most by a Raiders player. His performance, which was capped by an 83-yard touchdown run midway through the fourth quarter, even eclipsed the best effort of the famous Bo Jackson, against Scattle a

decade ago.

John Elway, the Denver quarterback, did his best to orchestrate one of his celebrated comebacks, hauling the Broncos back from 28-1 to 28-25. With Davis Itenited to just 85 yards on 23 carries, though, it was too much even for him. Kaufman said: "It was a

great match-up with Terreil. I won this time. Maybe he will win next time. I prayed before the game to get a thought that would get me back into the rushing race with Terrell and Barry Sanders. I thought if I could get that game, we would have a chance to win."

Joe Bugel, the Oakland coach, put it more bluntly. Our strategy coming in was

said. "It was Kaufman v Davis - Kaufman won We knew he was going to deliver."

Kaufman's performance overshadowed even the drama of Tuna Bowl II, the New England Patriots' attempt to force their former coach, Bill Parcells, known as "Big Tuna", to eat a second helping of humble pie in his new role as coach of the New York Jets.

The Jets, who won only one of their 16 games last season while Parcells was taking the Patriots to the Super Bowl, avenged their defeat in Massachusetts earfought 24-19 victory at the Meadowlands.

The Jets were trailing at half-time, but Parcells re-placed the ineffective Nell O'Donnell with back-up quarterback Glenn Foley, and he promptly engineered three scoring drives, com-pleting 17 of 23 passes for 200 yards and one touch-As the Patriots, who now

share the leadership of the American Football Conference Eastern division with Miami Dolphins, and the Broncos, the early season pacesetters, faltered, the San Francisco 49ers kept rum-bling on. They won their sixth successive game, beating the Atlanta Falcons 35-28 in Georgia, showing that they, too, have developed a potent rushing side to their play in the absence of Jerry

They trailed 7-0, the first time that they have been behind for six weeks, before Steve Young threw two touchdown passes, Terry Kirby ran for two more and set up another with an 82yard reception as the 49ers steamrollered their way to the best record in the NFL

Results and tables, page 49

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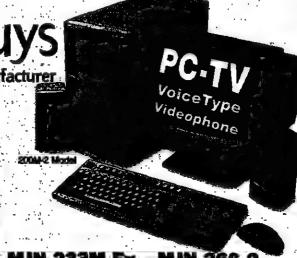
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RUGBY UNION

RACING: XAAR'S JOCKEY SEEKS ANOTHER GROUP ONE PRIZE IN THE RACING-POST TROPHY AT DONCASTER

Peslier makes tracks for glory with Little Indian

WHILE purities search for a realistic challenger to Xaer in the Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster this weekend, the best betting

Courth at Newton College and Pis carrier turn, Biscory in the Clark Strate Printings at Royal Mitchaut he is entered state of the Supply of B

By Chris McGrath

NO MATTER how often the racing public finds its greatest expectations deceived, every dazzling new suitor seems to be embraced with undiminished enthusiasm. It is appropriate that the dust should barely have settled on the Rowley Mile - after an irresistible display of brilliance by Xaar there this weekend - before attention turns to the Racing Post

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright

suggests the best value in the ante-post market

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PROCES

Saturday. This is the race in which. three years ago, Celtic Swing so seduced his admirers that

his official rating has withstood even the remarkable seven-length Dewhurst Stakes romp of Xaar. Yesterday, Matthew Tester, the official handicapper, gave Xaar a rating of 127, which has been exceeded only twice since El Gran Senor - by Celtic Swing and Arazi,

swagger as a three-year-old. It sturdier pedigrees. now fails to those hoping to

treated sceptically; Saturday's

Godolphin, seemingly still deny Xaar the 2,000 Guineas seeking a classic colt for next to trust that some such process has supplemented of decay will infect this latest Mudeer, unbeaten in two autumn glory. Those taking starts on fast ground. Alec horses to Doncaster on Satur-Stewart will no doubt feel day can at least console themnervous of the Dubai team's selves that the race should covetous eyes on Mutamam, a rather provide a platform for a stoutly bred calt who did well staying type, more suited to to win a steadily run race at the Derby. Certainly. Epsom Chester last month. ambitions for Xaar must be

Little Indian, the young star of the Sean Woods stable, likewise shapes as though he will improve again for a trip. He will be ridden by the inspira-tional Olivier Peslier. This race was the logical target for Little-Indian after he showed his appreciation of a testing seven furlongs in the Solario Stakes at Sandown in August, having previously been outpaced under sharper conditions at Goodwood.

"His win shouldn't have surprised anyone as he had flown the last 200 yards at Goodwood," Woods said. He's quite average to look at, and lazy in his work, but he just keeps progressing."
Another smaller stable en-

joying a fine season is that of James Toller, who also has Duck Row in the Vodafone Horris Hill Stakes at Newbury the previous day. Duck Row has already beaten



Craigsteel tackles the Racing Post Trophy over a mile at Doncaster on Saturday

Oulet Assurance, and Toller also has a line to three of the other acceptors in Kilimanjaro, Craigsteel and Muhtathir, respectively fourth, sixth and last behind his other exciting uvenile, Teapot Row, at Ascot

Kilimanjaro is likely to be ridden by Mick Kinane, which reduces the likelihood of Aidan O'Brien sending Second Empire and Impressionist for the race. The Irish

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Samuel Wilderspin (3.20 Huntingdon) Next best: Mister Jolson (4.30 Folkestone)

trainer is instead expected to be represented by Saratoga. Springs, an easy winner over this trip at the Curragh last

It is a time of year when National Hunt horses increasingly wrest centre stage from the Flat, Mr Mulligan, the Gold Cup winner, is set to make his first appearance since Cheltenham in the Desert Orchid South Western Pattern Chase at Wincanton on Thursday. However, Noel Chance is concerned about the going, and will walk the course today. Watering is

being promised as necessary.

All Blacks in record

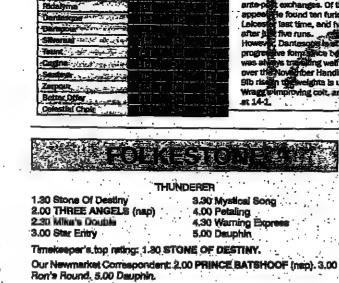
NEW ZEALAND have secured a world record sponsorship deal with Adidas as they bid to keep hold of their homegrown players. The German sportswear manufacturer would not reveal details of the deal but it has bettered a bid by its rival, Nike, reportedly worth £43 million, to win the contract to supply the famous All Black shirt.

The present sponsor and kit supplier, Canterbury of New Zealand, still has the right to improve on the Adidas offer but it is not expected to be able to match the deal. The contract also means that Adidas will have naming rights for the All Blacks' academy.

invest in the future of their game and persuade their leading players to stay at home after Zinzan Brooke agreed to

join Harlequins next season. Lianelli may have to play European games against Car-diff and Bath plus a tour match against the All Blacks

They face Cardiff in the Heineken Cup quarter-final play-offs on Saturday week and, if they come through that, they are due to meet Bath the following weekend, when they are also due to line up against the New Zealanders. have said that they would only be prepared to switch the match to Monday.



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STONE OF DESTINY can profit from this drop in class

Casual Marce 221 10th to Grace Browning in 61 Warenck malden (good). Casual Marce 221 10th to Grace Browning in 61 Warenck malden (good to firm). Prince Businoof 5341 8th to Say Rocks in 61 March 100 10th 100 1

RUSSIAN DELIGHT may improve allough to win a modest race

2.30 BEDDENDEN SELLING STAKES (3-Y-0: 22,277: 6) 189yd) (16

BETTING: 3-1 Carls Courselo. 7-2 Davie Rock, 6-1 Miles's Double, 8-1 Lestoron. Whitz Xid. 12-1 Galleans Glory. 14-1 Julian Symphony. 20-1 others.

Miles's Dombie 3% of the Medicale East in 61 Notlingham stakes (and) Reveled Chill Concerto 111 13th to At Large in 65 Notlingham stakes (and) Reveled Chill Concerto 111 13th to At Large in 65 Notlingham handlesp (pood) to firm). Davis Rock 2% of the Bogar in 71 Wolvestormpton handlesp (pood). Macharre Mixes 111 6th to Musharak in 71 Kempton makker (good). Whitz GG 4% 6th in Bold Tura m 71 Lingliest handlesp (firm), with Larnarma (6th better oil) 111 last.

CHILL CONCERTIO is disappointing but his a clear change in this grade

1909: CORROCHE CLEST 9-0 R Perham (3-1) M Common 15 nm

2.00 WESTENHANGER NAMES AUCTION STAKES (DIV 8: 2-Y-O. \$3,168: 6C 189yd) (9 runders)

(Div I: 2-Y-0: £3.168: 6f 189yd) (9 runners)

course and owners where or — copies to the leavest in talest used. Sulege on which hope has won (F — Brm; good to Brm; ford, G — good. S — soft, glood to soft, leavey). Owner in trickets: Timbes, they need weight, filter plats any affectuation. Thereforeper's spaced refing.

3.30 CLUFF MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN SYAKES

391	· (a)		BANDBOX 14 (SP) (Bandbyr Brigade) S Mellor 9-0 M Wilgham 📆
502	(12)		DOUBLE BRANDY 95 (Choon Elizabeth) Balding 9-0 R Cocketting 84
500	2		- BMPEROR NAMEEM 31 (Mrs & Meetign) B Meetign (40 K Fallon
504	(13)		LONG ISLAND 20 (Taker Ricodstock) R Harmon 9-0
505	CLOS	· 145	ROYAL BLUE 13 (Ridgesty Partnership) M Usher 9-0
500	40	. 68	THERD COUSEN 17 (P Long) M Haston-Ellis 9-0
506 507	. (7)	48	ATLANTA 14 (Dute of Marborough) J Dustop 8-5
	(11)		BATCHMONTH NELLE (Mrs D Price) E William 1-9
506	(26)		DOVER SOUL 6) (R Marchant) P Mattin 8-8 8 Sanders 80
5]0	24.5		SAME BIRD 30 (Mrs R Heatheate) J Spenting 8-9
311	ini		MYSTICAL SONG (J Strange) R Goest 8-7
312	. ba	5	OK BASE 14 (OK Partnership) J Akahusi 8-9
513	100		TOUGH NELL 63 (Godorphel Racing Parinestula) Bob Jones 6-9 N Day -
			5-1 Emparty Mileson, 7-1 Double Brandy, Albana, 8-1 That Coccin, Dover Soci, 16-1
			(, 5-1 cuspons remains, 1-1 bosons sparsy. Alacas, 6-1 state Leonal, bove acce, 10-1 4-1 piles. JREHAKEN 9-0 D Harrison (4-1) J Flacinism 18 cm

Bendbox 1941 2nd to Grace Browning in 61 Warehot malden auction (pand to firm). Double Brandy 31 5th to Artant in 61 Marehot reviews (good to firm). Expert Alenteen each 2nd way's Joy in 51 Membery never stakes (good to firm). Expert Reinsen each 2nd way's Joy in 51 Membery never to firm). Royal Blue 71 5th to Station's Horseut in 61 Broyan maider tooth. Third Cousen Mi 3rd to Aubertig in 61 Wolverbaurpion malden auction 10 Dover Sout 441 3rd to Barmuta Boy in 61 Salisbary mades auction (good to firm). Same 1 541 5th to Reliand in 51 Keptigion making (good) with Royal Blue (levels) 13 12th Myster Ing. Mystiko 16ty, half-clater to several visioner including the useful Prince Sebo and Milityard up 1861. S11 13th to Sec 61 Grasswere or 71 Folkestorn making (good to firm). BANDBOX deserves to win a race and could be suited by the drop back in trop

 $4.00\,$ Levy board rating related maiden stakes (2-Y-0: £2,808: 6f) (16 runners) BIDGEOD CORSECAN 35 fK Bullet S Dow 9-0

ſ	0022	COURTREY GYM 78 (BP) (Chasicstone Parlineable) of Chancon 9-0. T Outco
P	005	CRITICAL AIR 17 (H Greig) M Pristate 9-0 Schriffeld
d	040040	FLAME TOMER 36 (Matropol Al-Stands) R Hanson 9-0 Dane O'Mail
ľ	150	SOLDMASTER 26 (5) (T Capelert) W (Yourner 9-0" Emine O'Gorman
١		KANFTONE 17 (V) (P feet) J Bushed 9-0
1	CHUSSO	LIFE SENTENCE 38 (8) (Hophad Recog) J & Stayto-Orbourne 9-0 T Spiralin
ŝ	5503300	BLARMEY PARK 29 (V) (Blamey Park Racing Club) C Dwyer 8-11 D O'Donohou
3	04330	MPLILSTVF DECISION 5 (Lacyswood Hacing Club) M Minute 8-11 K Fallica
ŧ	02000	KATHES PET 17 (Mrs & Tucke) & Hodges 8-11
1	6450	METICURY FALLENG 17 OF Benfeld D Arostons 8-11 B Wildworth
2	00650	MISS SKYE 42 (E Ferencia) T Hangbles 8-11 \$ Senders [
ş		MICLESTAIN MASIC 18 (Hargood List) D Flowers Door 8-11 J Wester
Ē		PETALING 54 (6) (Kecnet Valley Thomashimed II) B Meanus 6-11 . M Telebra
١	8042800	STLENT PRIDE 18 (NESS D Kern) M Usher 8-11 J Fowds (7)
		WILD LOLLY 17 (W Doos) M Ryon 8-17
		Comer 6-1 Courteey Gyrn, 7-1 Critical Air, Maurison Magin, 10-1 Life Sestents, Impuls
	James Sali	no 12.1 offices

1998: SHARP RETURN 9-6 A Clust (7-1) M Ryon 12 cm

Coursely Gyan 11/41 2nd to Heavenly Falls in 6f Nottingham seller topod to fam). Critical As 3% 6th to Arbeidg in 6f Nottingham seller topod to fam). Critical As 3% 6th to Arbeidg in 6f Nottingham seller mades accident (AW). Entire Towns 19f 9th to Tiam mades (apod to fam). Patietting 4/41 and to Generous Embrace in 6f Lingfield citemer (good to sell) with Consecus (levels) 111 10th. CRATICAL AND is from a stable point Strough a line spell and looks worth a chance

٠.	Qυ	NB@	THOMCEUX LIMITED STAKES (£3,226; 67) (16 lumbers)
i	in i	1900300	FORCHES BID 3 (D) (if Macelowicz) N Pressott 3-9-3
-12			MISTER JOLSON 31 (B.C.D.F.G.S) (B Fronte) R Hodges B-8-1 . R Cactosia
3	(3)	1415002	OUT LINE 20 (D.F.G) (Miss D Green) M Madquict 5-8-1 A Edday (7)
4			MYSTICAL 20 (V.D.G.S) (Mes R Fact) Mrs L Status 3-9-0
5			SHRRIO G (F) (Swimmerton Transport Lini) P Evens 3-9-6
⊹, 6	(10)	\$50E3	BROADSTARS BEAUTY B4 (B.D.F.G.S) (Mrs. J Hard) D Sloar 7-8-12 C Totagne (3)
7			KENTUCKY FALL 29 (D.F) (Mrs E Green) Lady Herries 4-8-12 A Clark
- 8			SHARP 'N SMART 101 (CD.F.G) (K Burks) B Smart 5-8-12 M Tebbeti.
- 8			BRANESEART 26 (G) (W Porsorby) M Channon 3-8-11 T Quint
10			BURSLY 23 (C.F) (Lord Sampling) J Dunlop 3-8-11
11			MOPALEA 109 (F) (T Manghion) T Nangiton 3-8-11
. 12			ROFFEY SPREET 17 (D) (Mrs D Cock) R Hannon 3-8-11 Dane O'Hell
13	(8)	4342422	TOPTOR 31 (V) (6 Streetnings) ! Batting 3-6-11
14			HALDHANS 4 (D.P.) (Acrop Sud) J G Smyth-Option 3-8-8 D Sweetly (3) TTH-CAR 17 (A AS) S Hentury 3-8-8
15			TITHCAR 17 (A AS) S Hanbury 3-8-8
15		-	
mg	Manage	apt Swee	B-1)

BETTING: 5-1 Nembutoy Fell, 6-1 Biddaly, 8-1 Mychand, 10-1 Parutag Bid, Brandalaine Bunniy, Topton, 12-1 Micha Jolson, Ont Line, Swinn, Ropales, Tifucar, 14-1 olives. 1996; PURPLE PURIG 5-8-12 A Continue (4-1 fee) L Cottent 13 fan

Forcing Bid 5-12 A comman (1-1 set) Countries in 6 Wolverhampton tradicap (AW) Out Line 11 2nd to Robellion in 6 Salisbusy apprentice handleap (good). Mystical 21 2nd to Petite Danseuse in 61 Leisester chainter (good to firm). Savino bear Royal Donce 11 in 51 Reduce states (good to firm). Savino bear Royal Donce 11 in 51 Reduce states (good to firm). Savino bear Royal Donce 11 in 51 Reduce states (good to firm). Savino (bear 24 M) 5th to Michael 12 Notificap (good to firm). Brownear 22 M 5th to Michael 12 2nd to Lord Disver in 71 Brighton states (firm) William 12 2nd to Canthon 47 To Carteria Countries (20 worse off) 101 4th. Hallowing 341 2nd to Night Ot States in 71 Caterials Reduced (good to firm). HALOWING has encouraging bits of form and this is not a strong race

	S HANDICAP (£2,415: 1m 4f) (18 numers)
rss 90422300	FOURDANED 11 (J Falver) S Doer 4-8-10
(7) 1315603	GLOW FORUM 17 (D.F.S) (Mass J Ansies & Pints) & Manageme Hall 6-9-10 K Fadios
(15) 00-0000	REME 35 (6.0 F.S.) (Or A Kimber) K Cornectord 8-9-9 W J O'Cooner
121 0006502	SEA DANZIG 20 (F) (P Cook) J Bridger 4-9-7
(5) 0000035	SUBSTRAY 8 (G) (Elemporari Racing Parisars) R Ingram 3-8-7 A McGlone
(15).0030030	PERSIAN BLUE 49 (G Shropshke) R Heoroa 3-9-6 Date O'Nell
(13) 0031613	VERCNECA FRANCO 17 (CD.F) (J Whelen) P Hodger 4-9-6 R Firench (3)
(4) 0-50020	DREFT 4 (B Hagges) M Prescott 3-9-5
ri6) 1038038	MR SPECULATOR 17 (V.D.F) (Speculators) J Banks 4-9-4
(3) 0833401	DAUPHIN 11 (D.F.G.S) (Mrs. R Brown) W Musson 4-9-3 M Wighten
195 005	BOB KNOWS 13 (A Hantson) R Johnson Houghton 3-9-3
(14) 500036	MERILIFUR 17 (College Recing Perteurship) Lady Hendes 3-9-3 _ R Cochrane
(1) 0551066	ADMIRALS SECRET 15 (D.F.G) (Mrs. C Wall) C Wall 8-9-3
(11) 301740	MARYJO 15 (D.S) (R Klement) G L Moone 8-9-2 Candy Morris
nm 3005650	HERBSHAM DANCER 15 (Knogkrift Racing Plans) B Millianan 3-5-6 A Wildelm (3)
(17) 600	MY ROLAND 29 (May D Humiset) J Filich-Heyes 3-8-12
60 1022034	WILDERRE 31 (D.S) (Canishay Bloodstock Ltd) R Aleburs 6-8-12 . T Count
(2) - 2054	VIBURINUM 6 (Lambourn Valley Racing) A Foster 3-8-11 T Speaks
an sala	8-1 Veronica Franco, 13-2 Wildling 7-1 Glov Forum, Sea Danzig, Meliterr, 12-
SEC OF LOSSIDER	Del Attribut Liveren' ette marrier 1-1 dens 1 Attribute ette entralt meneral 12 .

3.00 HARDRES HANDIGAP (3-Y-D: £3,470: 1m 1f 149yd) (15 runners)	17 (6) 1022034 Wit DERE 31 (D.5) (Caniclety Bloodstock Ltd) R Aletturs 6-8-12 T Count 54 18 (2) - 2054 VISUARRUM 6 (Lardburn Valley Rucing) A Foster 3-8-11
407 (9) 0-5006 AFDENT & FI Lamb) C Benstand 9-7 C Rotter 50 402 (17) 2333380-INCLINATION 36 (0 Brown & A Word) M Blandwid 9-6 J Option 7-7	BETTING: 6-1 Dissocia: 6-1 Vescolar Franco, 13-2 Wilder, 7-1 Giov Forum, Sca Davoig, Meditest, 12-1 Dn2, 14-1 offices.
	1898: SUMMERIALE SPECIAL 5-10-9 Ne K Gobbs (20-1) Mas P Onlines 16 cm
404 GB 4085066 MERR'S TO HOME 13 (D.F.) (Distable Uppma) it Figure 19-5 W 3 to Color 16 (Distable 19-6) SUREY THE INSPIREY	Glow Forum 21 3rd to Polar Champ in 11/m Weberhampton translicap (AW). Sen Danzig 24/1 2nd to Attende Dopin in 11/m Salistoury handicap (good), Junilary 74/1 5h to Serret Ballot in 11/m Leleuster kandleng (soft) Persian Blue 12 17 his Alton Lady in 15/m Beginton filluss handicap (good to firm). Veronica Franco 33/1 3rd to Childran's Choice in 11/m Nottingham handicap (good to firm) with Medicur (2th better off.) 93/1 sh and Mr Speculator (teres) 38/1 17/s. Datit 20/19/s to Präudi an 11/m Catenick scales (soft). Desphir beat New Inn 11/4 in 11/m Accard analeurs handicap (meany) with Foundamed (3th better off). 58/1 11/s. Bob Knows 31/1 5th to Bastran in 11/m Nottingham maiden (soft). Admirats Secret 71/4 6th to Sibertan Mystic in 11/m Polarizangen handicap (and) Vibramum 93/1 4fb to Moon Colony in 11/m Mathepham maiden (soft).
A14. (12) 1394340 VILLAGE FOR THE 21 SANDOW 15 (0 Globy) B Peace 8-7	DALIPHEN is in peak town and looks sure to give a good account
Senter (U-1 artists 1996; MONO LADY B-12 M Featon (20-1) D Haydin Jones 15 cm 1996; MONO LADY B-12 M Featon (20-1) D Haydin Jones 15 cm 15	COURSE SPECIALISTS
Appendix and the property of the state of th	TRAINERS West Russ S. JOCKEYS Minutes Minute

CHEPSTOW

THUNDERER

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES)

2.10 WYE NOVICES CHASE (£3,511: 3m) (7 runns	rs)
1 3211 COMMANCHE CREEK 12 (V.D.F.G) M Pgm 7-11-12 A P McCoy 2 2970 CHARLES OUAKER 10 M Salaras 7-10-12 P Holly	100
2 29/U CHARLES OLIAKER 10 M Salamar 7-10-12 P Holiny	-
A SOURCE SOURCE WHICH TO US ST. SOURCE WINDOWS (A)	107
4 Pri- Thirdon 241P (O.S.S) R Alex 7-10-12 A Thorneso	-
5 460- KENDAL CAVALLER 216 ISI B ASSIMBLE 7-10-12 . D Soles (5)	112
6 41-U MR STRONG BALE 4 (BF,D,F,G) P Nucleats 6-10-12 T J Marphy	94
7 (71)- ZANDER 187 (G) H Tersico-Danes 5-10-9 C Licenthys	-
6-4 Zender, 11-4 Mr Strang Galo, 6-1 Commencine Creat, Bolden Dram. 8-1 o	he.

2.40 INCHARD HOLDER HANDICAP HURDLE

				-, -					
1	2114	BANK	POUR 1	(B.BF,D),F,0,5)	M Pipe 7	-12-0 .	A P McCoy	112
- 2	142-	FEAG	HESOLI	E 79F (D)	F,S) 7 I	Auginy 5-	11-12 J A	Kavanagh	12:
- 3	1000	LAMOR	Ú SENTA	TY 548 (C	78 10:	Shop 1-11	-11 N	Bracker (3)	
								J Ryan	
								R. Johnson	
								. I Callody	
								O O'SURVIN	10
								Downoody	
								C Licensian	
								DOUBLEAL	
								Withd (5)	
3-1	Tidel F	orce, 7	2 B Dor	, 6-1 Ber	tepodr. i	Reagaines	أوتجا رجع	h Tsily, 8-1	die:
-	_	_	_		-		- 4.0		_

3.10 SOUTH-WEST RACING CLUB HANDICAP CHASE

(\$4,383: 2m 3f 110yd) (6) 1 2U1- FRAZER BLAND 174 (F.S.S) R Rose 6-12-0 . D O'sethen 2 1Fb- PRAZER BLAND 174 (F.S.S) R Rose 6-12-0 . D O'sethen 3 P4-5 CROLPEE 17 (F.S.S) J King 9-11-5 M A Reparatio 4 2822 WHO'S TO BAY 11 (F.S.S) P Paiched 11-10-5 P Paichard 5 222 BAYERO 10 (F.S.S) J O'Stee 6-10-4 Lifechaal Berman (3) 6 32-5 BT OF A TOUCH 22 (F.S.S) R Host 11-10-5 J Prost 2-1 Bayard, 11-4 Pages Island, 4-1 Cooline, 5-1 Who's Te Say, 6-1 offices
3.40 SUNONS BOTH BIRTHDAY MOVICES HURDLE

(£2,416: 2m 4l 110yd) (12)

54-1 BANKAY 115 (E.S) N Mitchell 7-11-2 R Denimonly	
DOT- BRASSIS HR.L 166 (G) R Roue 6-10-10 D O'Suffeet	- 7
PRO-COUNTRY MORSTREL 200 S Douch 6-10-10 . G Rae (7)	- 8
1FP- CRAFTY GURNER 157P (G) S Brookstew 7-10-10 & Wyone	-
23-5 DRAKESTONE 19 R Brown 6-10-10 A P McCov	10
6/2- JALAPONO 387 N Turston-Davies 6-10-10 C Liewallyn	
IPP- KYLE DAVID 217 F Jordan 5-10-10 P Hide	
LATE HARVEST 387F 3 Brookshow 5-10-10 C Mande	
ADP- MR BOUWIGLES 164 ! Williams 6-10-10 B Powell	
P/S- VITAMAN 306 (F) Mrs. J Pomao 8-10-10 8 Hogen (S)	10
005 OAKSHONT 103 N Seepond 4-10-9	9
O- MARGER 195 D Weste 7-10-5 A Bellamy	
array, 4-1 Jahoperio, Villaman, 5-1 Brasse, Hall, Lain Harveyl, 8-1 others.	

4.10 SEVERN SELLING HANDICAP CHASE

2,234. 24 31 11090/ (0)	
1 02-0 MR BEAN 38 (BF.F) & Burler 7-12-0	
5 4756 TOTAL ASSET 23 A Fortes 7-10-2	

4.40 THAMES HURDLE (£3,420: 2m 110yd) (5) 1 SEPTAM 17 (CDF) Lady Hories 4-11-13 R Denomody PF- MACMOTRIS 262 D Naciolson 4-11-8 R Johnson BOLD ORBITAL SSF C Brooks 3-10-6 S Maches 1 Mass Condoct 12 (JDF) M Pag-2-10-4 A P MacCoy ALBIERUAM 146F N Sanbage 3-10-1 T J Murphy

COURSE SPECIALISTS

CHEPSTOW: Trainers: D factorism, 16 winners from 56 number 28 6%: P Hotels, 21 from 76, 27 6% M Prps. 47 from 196, 24 0%, Rose, 7 from 34, 20 6% Judiusy: A P McCoy, 26 surners from 9 rides, 27 7%; R Domonody 28 from 122, 23 0% D 0°Solfwan, 5 from 2 22 7%; R Johnson, 12 from 56, 21.0%
HURTINGDON: Transers: Abs M Jones, 3 ministrs from 5 robner 50 Ps. K Badey, 26 from 72, 36.7% D Michalson, 14 from 50, 28.07 Miles S Smith, 4 from 19, 211%, Abs J Polyman 8 from 3 20.5% Josephs: D Byrna, 6 from 24, 25.0%, N Williamson, 16 from 64

HUNTINGDON THUNDERER

2.20 San Giorgio. 2.50 Forest Feather, 3.20 Samuel Wilderspin. 3.50 Monymoss, 4.20 Mac's Supreme. 4.50 Belmarita.

BOING: GOOD

2.20 UPWOOD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,923. Sm 21) (8 runners)

5-2 Brodiey House. 3-1 San Giorgio. 5-1 Snow Board, Spring Marython, 5-1 others

2.50 JACK RAMPLY MEMORIAL HOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,067: 2m 4i 110yd) (9)

| 10-2 FOREST (2.5)(05.7.211 41 TOYO) (8)
| 10-2 FOREST FEATHER 10 (0.0.5) C Whether 9-12-0 G Brid
| 10-5 SPEARIEED ABAIN 252 May V Williams 8-11-6 A Mag
| 3-422 MOOSANSR 11 (F.6.5) K Williams 6-11-5 A 5.5
| 4-29 LIFEBUOY 256 (F.0.9) J Turns 6-11-3 R 80
| 5-4-8 ORCHARD (NIG 18 6 McCourt 7-10-12 D Bridger
| 8 P-54 FELLOO 17 15 Seage 8-10-10 W Wilson
| 7 OUP- WESTCOTT E.D 276 (R.5.) F Bowin 16-10-3 W Wilson
| 9 313 HEAVERS ABOVE 281 (BF.0.7) F Marchy 5-10-0 W WILSON
| 3-13 HEAVERS ABOVE 281 (BF.0.7) F March 5-1-0 W WILSON
| 3-14 Prince Resins; 7-2 Heavers Above, 4-1 Franc. 5-1 (Woodsky, 8-1 Speech Agent, 12-1 Liebuoy, 14-1 Orchard King, 16-1 others.

3.20 m j kemble birthday ebf national

IGO	PIGGS HUNDLE (EZ,STS. ZIII I IVYU) (12)
00-4	BARTHOLDMEN FAIR 32 C Dayer 8-11-0 I Law
30-	CHASING THE MOON 271 G Briding 5-11-0 B I
/23-	INTO THE WEB 225 (5) Mrs M Jones 6-11-0 D
1005	KEY GREP 38 Lins 5 Smith 6-11-0 R
	LUFE OF BREAN 14 J Whyse 6-11-0 Mr R Wald
106-	SAMUEL WILDERSPIR 185 (BF,D,G) D Nacholson 5-17-0_A N
41/0	SWYNERORO PROCE 11 (DUF) J Helbarian 5-11-0 F Los
	THE FIXL MONTY C Brooks 5-11-0
	BODDTMF GEORGE No. J Pimin 410-13
665-	HURRECANE JAME 160 M J Roberts 5-10-9 P Neo
/35-	RUN FOR COVER 172 Mrs P Dutled 5-10-9 If Yell
0-	TAWNY WARRIER 330 Mrs P Robeson 5-10-0 M Pi
Samuel	Unicionate del Kay Crin Rel Into The White Representation Comme
Library	Wilderspet, 4-1 Key Grip, 8-1 lato The Web. Bloodbrine George ; 14-1 Chasing The Moon, Swyellard Prute, 25-1 others.
	1 to 1 mental time many majority (1997) from 1

3.50 HOLYWELL HANDICAP CHASE

... A Goest
... W Marston
... R Supple
... D Geltsgher
D Bridgester 2-1 Cals Run, 6-2 Moneyoux, 3-1 The Godher, 6-2 Principes Pecny, 25-1 Allo Halles

4.20 OLDKURST HOVICES HURDLE

(£2,530; 2m 4/ 110yq) (11)
1 03-1 PEALINGS 11 (CD,G) 9 Hubbard 5-11-5
2 13 DIEGO 39 (6) M Priman 4-11-4
2 SE-8 DESERT CHALLENGER 11 Junions 7-10-12 . G B
4 DINGO WARFOON 839F D Grissell 5-10-12
5 515- MAC'S SUPPLEME 227 (G) F Murphy 5-10-12 . P.D.
6 333- PHYSECAL FUN 162 (BF) A Blackmore 6-10-12 P Hen
7 64-6 CHARROR 17 John Berry 4-10-11 . A M 8 TIGGR I AVE 12F S Dow 4-10-11
9 URGENT REPLY 22F C Duyer 4-10-11 I Lan
10 P CRUISING FREE 91 L Montague Half 8-10-7
11 004- NOT TO PARC 223 F Burte 7-10-7 R :
7-2 Acadego. 4-1 Chebrol, 9-2 Diego. 6-1 Physical Fee, Urgani Reply. 8-1 cm

4.50 CHURCH END HANDICAP HURDLE

12,355: 2m (10ya) (6)				
3 4 8	4021 010- 71P- -61B	TM A DREAMER 17 (V.D.5) Mics Routed 7-(1-10 P bildgiey (b) WANDHA 11 (CD.F.S.5) K Margas 7-11-3		
4 Wa	ndia, i	QUALITARY PRODE 677 J Higherton 5-10-5		

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Pontefract

Going: good to soft 2.30 (67) 1. Sharp Cracker (D McKeown, 8-11 fav, Timekueper's top rating), 2. Bless Im (15-2), 3. Scare (9-1) 13 ran. NR. Ber's Gdt. 11, M.I. M. Johnston Tote \$1.50: \$1.10, \$2.10, \$2.20 DF: \$4.60 Time 1:14 50. CSF E5 84
3.00 (1m 2' 6;0') 1, Rudand Chantry (Nonley, 11-2'; 2, Bornanta Peak (4-1 tain, 3, Tapperary Sunset (10-1); 4, Setendiphy (6-1) 19 mm 1(.2' Lord Huntingdon, Total: 53.0; 29.0; 15.0, 52.00, 51.80, DF. 220 60 Trior 137.00 CSF 224 57 Tricast: 2213 63

2213 53 3.30 (1m 4yd) 1, Gulland (M Hills, 10-11 5ey); 2, Rambling Rose (9-2); 3, Clapham Common (20-1); 8 ran 2-5, 7, G Wingg, Totat: E1.80; E1.20, £1 10, £2 80 DF: £3.30 CSF: £4.57 CSP 44.97 4.00 (2m 1/2) (9vd) 1, Sloowitz (J Weever, 11-2 (4m), 2, Highfield Fizz (9-1), 3, All On (11-2) (1-1m); 4, Sad Mad Bad (8-1), 18, rat, 11, 14, C. Cyzer Tote 55 60, £1.90, 51.80, £1.80, £2.20 DF £1.40, 7/dor £40.00, CSF £51 86 Tincast, £27£ 83

240.00. CSF 251 86 Indext 227E 83 4.30 (5) 1, Alasn (T G McLaughtin, 33-1). 2, Bowlers Boy 19-2 Ise/; 3, Robellion (25-1); 4, Lefibello (16-1). 17 ran. NR Taolste. 11, 19: R. Marten, Tota: 251.20. 211.40, 22.30, 25.40, 26.10, DF: 2177 50 Thir: 21.108.00. CSF: 2189.02. Tricest 23,657.88. 23,657 88.
5.00 (1m 4yd) 1. Premium Quest (F Norton, 14-1); 2, Marske Machine (10-1); 3. Polo Vorshure (16-1); 4. Nerrogio (8-1) Bassesian 13-2 80 vs 19 ren. NR Alledon, NA. 48. R Fathey, Totar 22-80; 24.50; 25.50; 24.10, £2.50 DF: £150 90. Thro: £578.10 CSF, £134.96. Tricost: £1,251,81 5.90 (R) 1, Itch (Dean McKeown, 40-1). 2. Premium Princess (7-2); 3. Recognition (3-2) Il Destino 100-30 tav. 12 ran. NR Lickenysplit. Nk., 71 R Bestiman. Tole: £44.40, £5.60, £1.40, £2.10 DF: £146.20 Tric £59.70 CSF: £160.15. Jackpot: not won (pool of £51,877.61 carried forward to Folkestone today). Placepot: £32.00. Ovadpot: £36,70. Southwell

Going: stancard

Goting: standard
2.10 [63] 1, Santa Faye (T Sorake, 5-2 tavl.,
2. I'm Tel (50-1), 3, Lasham (6-1), 10 ran
55, 256, B Pating Tote 64 40, 51 10, 66 90,
52 50, DF- 542 20, Trior 5187 00 CSF6134 20 Theast: 5717 32,
2.40 (61) 1, Dencing Mystery (A Daly, 16-1);
2. Mozambique (5-1); 3, Dentine (14-1)
Nobalino (4th) 6-4 tav 14 tan. 2, 1% E
Wheeler Tota, 527 90; 53.40, 51.50, 53.60
DF- 531 60, This 159, 70, CSF- 596.47 19 40 Tino £18.90 CSF: £18.18
3.40 (fin 6) 1. Needwood Epic (5 Wintword, 14-1), 2. Trooper (8-1): 3. Igab (12-1) Indigo Dawn 5-2 tev. 15 ran. 71. 154 B. Morgan. Tote: £21.60, £4.30, 53.30, £3.30 DF: £3.50 Tino £4.30.50 CSF £118.89 Tincast, £1.311.85
4.10 (71) 1. Simooth Princess (Benedictive Holversen, 11-1) 2. Pricy (8-1), 3. Figrave (12-1) High Money 3-1 tev. 16 ran. 91. 194 J. FtzGerald. Tote £20.80; £5.40, £2.70, £3.20 DF £83.70, Tino: £114.60, CSF: £101.11.

E101 11.

4.40 (1m) 1, Jona Holley IG Perker, 100-30 tay); 2, Beretco (14-1); 3, Zelotto (9-1); 4, Yeoman Other (10-1); 16 mn 23/3, 3/4 G L Moore Tote: \$3.00; £1 10, £3.20; £2.60; £3.50 DF £37 00 Trio: £114.60, CSF-£56.68; Tricket £394.70 Plecepot: £1,334.50. Quadpot: £208.00.

Plumpton Going: good Going: good 220 (2m ti ndie) 1, Resich The Clouds (R Supple, 6-1), 2, Globel Dancer (12-1), 3, Docklands Courier (12-1), Colour Courieselor 9-2 lav 12 ran. tvl., 141 J. Utpson. Tota., E7 80: €2 90. €3.40. €4.80. DF £47 00. Trio. £111 60. CSF £76 56 Tricest: £786.81,

2.50 (2m 11 hdie) 1, Steem On U R Kavanach 50-1) 2, Albernine (2-9 fav) 3, Most Welcome News (7-1), 7 ran Hd. 21, Mrs. J. Jewell, Toto: 052,0, 08.20, 01.10 DF: 924.30 CSF 962.44. 01-129.30 CSF 162-44.
3.20 (Sm 11 110yd ch) 1, Snowdon Lify (J A McCarthy, 12-1); 2, Jac Del Phnce (6-1); 3, Claymore Led (5-1) Laughing Fontaine 7-2 lev 13 ran 51, 31 P Webber Tote £16 50 £4.30, £2 90, £2 90 DF; £54 40 Tno. £86 80. CSF £78 94. Tnoast £383.97

3.50 (2m 4/ hole) 1. Native Shore (Mr K R O'Ryan, 13-2); 2. Mile's Music (13-2); 3, Laazim Alooz (7-1) Mischell Star 6-4 fav. 16 ran, NR. China Gem. 111, 31, C Mann. Tota: \$10.70, \$2.30, \$2.30, \$2.30 DF \$42.50 The \$29.60 CSF: \$51.23. 4.20 (2m 5f ch) 1, Black Church (D O'Sulliven, 12-1); 2, Normarange (7-1); 3, Amber Spark (100-30 fav) 11 ran, 344, 41 R Rove, Tote: £12.90 £3 14, £3 10, £1 50 DF: £25.60 7m £50.90 CSF: £53.86 Tricast; £325.04.

Tricast: E225 U4.
4.50 (2m 41 holle) 1. Nehrawadi (A P McCoy, 7-2 li-tav), 2. Sorbiere (9-1); 3. Rhythm And Blues (5-1) Persian Elike 7-2 Liv 11 ran 41, nk G L Moore, Tote: £4,70; £1.40, £2.30. £1 60. DF £13.00 Tric £88.20, CSF £35.69 Tricost £152.29 Placeont 9325 BD. Quadoot: \$27.20.

shirt deal

New Zealand are anxious to

in the space of ten days.

FIXTURES

Uefa Cup Second round, first leg

Aith Billbao v Aston Villa (8 30) RC Strasbourg v Liverpool (6 0 Nationwide League First division Bury v OPR (7 45) Bury v CIPR (7 45)

"Crewe v Ipswich (7 45)

Norwich v Reading (7.45)

Notingham Forest v Weat Brom (7 45)

Notingham Forest v Weat Brom (7 45)

Caford Utd v Middlesbrough (7 45)

Port Vala v Huddlesbeld (7 45)

Portsmouth v Bradford (7 45)

Sheft Utd v Stockport (7 45)

Sunderland v Swindon (7 45)

Second division Second owards

Bournerpoully v Milwell (7 45)

Bransford v Bristol Rovers (7 4

Bristol City v Preston (7 45)

Carlisle v Luton (7 45)

Matthewards v Vett. (7 45) Vorthampion v York (7.45)

Wigan v Gillingham (7 45) Wresham v Southend ... Wycomba v Walsall (7.45) Third division Barnet v Rochdele (7 45)

Cambridge Utd v Hull (7.45)
Coethester v Doncaster (7.45)
Dertington v Cardill
Hartlepool v Paterborough
Mecclesiteid v Exister (7.45) Torquey v Leyton Orient (7 45)

Torquay v Leyton Ortent (7 45)
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Primiter division:
Bromsgowe v Forent Green (7.46)
Temevorth v Numeation Southern diversion:
Condentord v Yale Clevedon v Citemesters
Town, Cup: First nound, first leg. St
Loonerds Stameroff v Erth and Belweiters
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division:
Accuragion Stanley v Barrow. Altimicham v
Runcern, Bamber Bindge v Hydre Byll
Spertner v Barrow. Altimicham v
Runcern, Bamber Bindge v Hydre Byll
Lancaster, Guizeley v Alfreton, Raddolff v
Whalatrd.

STREMAN LEAGUE: Premier division:

Bedford T. Tooling and Mincham v Windoor and Eron.
UNBOND LEAGUE: First division: Congleton v Transcraf, Essaysood Town v Stockshodge PS, Gratt Hansood v Platran Grems v Ashton Unsed, Lincoth Unded J Metlock Town, Albori v Workington Worksop v Bradford Pik Avit FA LIMBRO TROPHY: First hound qualitying replay: Hinckley United v Stations: Bisson v Paget R, Reddisch v Essawood Town, Droylogen v Beiter Town; Leigh RM J Frickley Handon v Havarr Abrigton Town v Flaet T, Weymouth v Undordge AVON IHBURANCE COMBINATION: Fest division, Arsenal v Bington (2.0) AWON Institutions Committee of Awards of American Values of Awards UNLET SUBSEA GOLDEN Christon: Wick v Arundal SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Province SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGU

SCREWFIX DRIEGT Bushaue: rememoral division: Ethnose of Bushaue, Westbury or Core

MIMERYA SAARTAM SOUTH MIDLANDS

LEAGUE: O'Brian Butchers Premier develon Cup: Beschristied v American, Boglesnade v Wathern Abbes, Barkingsde v Bernsedown, Royston v Letchworth Hilling-don Booouth v Harpenden, Hamed v Broze House, Hoddesdon v Wewyn Geroch Arlesey form v Langtond Harerbela v Harlingey, Islandon St Marvs v Potters Bar COURAGE COMBRINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chipciesa v Netherne Cover v Harley Westrey, Goderning and Gaelord v Wathen Cacuatt, NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherion Colleries v Carthero, Newcastle Town v St Hoters, Safford v Pracool Crist.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Googant v Christinich; Portsmouth v Aerostructures, Wimborne v Eastlogh v Aerostuctures. Wimborne v Eastingh UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE. Premier division. Bounté v Boston. INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Chaseloun v Knybassley V MORTHERN COUNTRES EAST LEAGUE Premier distance: Armthorpe Weltate v Protenng, Armold v North Ferrby Malto, MW v Liversedge, Ossett Albion v Denaby FAI NATIONAL LEAGUE, Cup: Quarter

finat Shelbourne v Limerick (7 45) FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: No. Ional division: Eventon Ledass v Tranment Roy Ladies (7 0). FA YOUTH CUP: Third qualifying round: S: Albans v Eath and Belvetore. OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: European Cup: Londor Towers v Rhondorl (Ger) 18 01. ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Manchester Storm v Newcastle Cobes (7:30), Notingham Parithers v Sheffield Steelass (7:30) RUGBY UNION: Club match: Northerrepton v Ordord Housesoft (7:30). ton v Oxford University (7 30) SNOOKER: Grand Pro (in Bournemouth).





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SPORT

THE TIMES TUESDAY OCTOBER 21 1997

Villa hope **Collymore** can unlace **Basques**

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN BILBAO

WHOOPS of mock bravado filled the air as the plane carrying the Aston Villa players rolled alarmingly from side to side, buffeted by high winds, on its approach into Llegadas airport here yesterday. It was not the best experience to have to endure on the eve of their Uefa Cup second-round first-leg tie against Athletic Bilbao tonight.

Whether the players will exhibit such high spirits during take-off from Llegadas in the early hours of Wednesday morning is a moot point. If their domestic form lines count for anything in the rarified atmosphere of European combat. Villa may be offering up some silent prayers - as many of them probably did. privately, yesterday

- for the second leg.
Since beating Bordeaux in the first round, Villa have only a 1-0 win against Bolton Wanderers to their credit. On the debit side, dismal defeats against West Ham United in the Coca-Cola Cup and Wimbledon in the FA Carling Premiership bode nothing but ill.

Under normal circumstances, the return of Stan Collymore, from Premiership suspension, would be enough to lift morale. At his bewitching best, few defences can cope as he slaloms his way through with arrogance and ease. Bilbao should perhaps beware.

However, Collymore is one of the game's great unpredictables, one who inspires and infuriates in equal measure. Brian Little, the Villa manager, can only hope it is the more earnest, hard-working side of the England striker's nature that is exhibited in the compact and

intimidating San Mames stadium.
One goal in 13 matches this season is no sort of return for a E7 million investment but Little re-mains optimistic. "He's missed a few chances, which doesn't help, and I suppose he could have had a goal in every other game," Little said. "We keep encouraging him to get in goalscoring positions and I'm sure it's only a matter of time

before he gets going.
"He wants to do well, you can see that, and we keep talking to him, quietly. Unfortunately, it's always the high profile players who attract the criticism when things aren't going too well."
Collymore's European record is

none too impressive, either. In three starts for Liverpool, his former club, and two against Bordeaux, he has yet to open his account. It is also likely that he will evening as Little concentrates on containment rather than entertainment Bilbao at least offered reminders

of home yesterday as heavy drizzle fell on the northern Basque port. the weather trying its best to dim the splendours of the newly-opened Guggenheim Museum.

Around the turn of the century, Athletic Club de Bilbao was founded by itinerant foundary workers and mining engineers from the northeast of England.

The present-day players, strug-gling in the Spanish League, still wear the red and white stripes of Sunderland. Villa, perhaps, can only hope that they play like them. ABTON VILLA (probable) M Bosnich: U Broogl. Staumon, G Southgate, F Netson, M Draper or S Curoc, I Taylor, S Grayton, A Wingin; D Yorks, S Cotymone.

ATHLETIC BILBAO (probable). I Ebsebarre; F Riss, C Garco, R Akorta, i Landartzar, J Uruba, E Airoz, J Lunazabal, J Gorgalez, J Ebsebarria, K Ziganda.

Matt Dickinson finds another side to Old Trafford's Mr Angry



Schmeichel's physique and reputation are intimidating, but the private world of the Manchester United goalkeeper is in stark contrast to his image

Schmeichel allows the mask to slip

habit of thrusting his crimson face nose-tonose with players and letting rip with a blast of abusive hot air earned Alex Ferguson the dressing-room nickname albeit one muttered quietly in his presence — of The Hairdryer. It could just as easily have been given to Peter Schmeichel, a man also given to frank airing of his thoughts, as dozens of team-mates, opponents and officials can testify. Such openness is something

that the Manchester United goalkeeper is more reluctant to pursue away from the game, a private man who has grown understandably suspicious since the lan Wright affair, of which he will never speak publicly, content that those close to him know of his innocence. Perhaps he should be more forthcoming, because he is a thoughtful, reflective individual, far removed from his "big, loud and wild" image. The big bit, of course, he cannot help, and nor would he want to, his 6ft 4in, infinidating a heavyweight boxer. never mind an onrushing centre

forward. The wildness also comes naturally, proof of the competitive desire that made him an obvious

as soon as Roy Keane was ruled out for the season. It is also, he admits, a front born of conveacmins, a front born of convenience, a mask designed to keep distance between professional and family existence at a club where, like no other, private lives are very much deemed public property.

"People see me as a big, loud character," the Dane said, "and it

sults me to have it that way because in my private life I am completely different. It helps to keep the two things separated. There is nothing of interest for anyone in my private world and I want it to

stav říke that.'

Schmeichel does himself a disservice. There is much about him that intrigues, not least a passion for music inherited from his father, a professional musician in Denmark. Try to imagine Schmeichel in a band and the mind stretches no further than a set of drums, threshing out his frustrawhiri of broken sticks. He talks. though, of preparing for the highintensity matches that he so relishes by turning his giant hands to a Beethoven piano sonata. "I use music to relax so I try and play a

By Our Sports Staff

ARSENE WENGER believes that

become reality "in the next three or four years". The Arsenal manager

said that the pressure from tele-vision companies across the conti-

nent will be too much to withstand

and that Uefa, the sport's Euro-

pean governing body, will enlarge the Champions' League.

However, Wenger warned that

European Super League will

same." Schmeichel, who will no doubt be toying with a few tunes before the European Cup Champions' League match against Feyenoord tomorrow, said.

"I try and choose pieces out of my league. I can read a little bit of score and I try and pick something I really have to concentrate on to take my mind off the game ahead, Anything from Billy Joel to classi-cal." One of his own compositions,

'People see me as big and loud and it suits me that way'

> an unnofficial song for Euro 96, briefly flirted with the Danish charts. We Can Do It Again will no doubt be the theme in the Trafford as they prepare to cement their position as leaders of group B after victories over Kosice and so memorably, Juventus.

a real highlight of my career here." Schmelchel said. Temporary captain that evening, he is now confirmed in the job until Keane's knee recovers from a cruciate ligament operation. "We had

domestic competitions will suffer if

the leading clubs establish their own carrel to run a European

competition. And he suggested that

he was unconcerned by Arsenal's

nearer. Now they've organised the

Champions' League into six groups of four, but the natural thing would

seemingly aged about 12¹2, playing out of position in midfield against one of the biggest clubs in the world. But he played superbly, just as every one of the lads did. "It was a fantastic night for us

all, but we know it means nothing if we do not build on it, nothing if we fall to win against Feyenoord, and then the next game and then the next one after that." They are words that could have been spoken by the manager himself and sentiments that

drive to the core of what has made United the country's leading club by some distance since Schmeichel arrived in for a ridiculously cheap

The morning after the Juventus triumph, the captain and his teammates arrived bright-eyed at The Cliff training ground, already preparing for the next challenge. Schmeichel is a notorious perfecionist. Furlour if he is beaten even mark sound draw straws to find out who has to provide shooting practice, knowing that they will be out on the field until the sun goes down. Such self-imposed standards have already brought con-

£650,000 fee.

championship titles, two FA Cups, a League Cup and the European championship in Sweden in 1992. Schmeichel sees no end to it. Thirty-four next mouth, he has agreed a four-year extension to his contract. There is, he said, no other club that could fulfil him, and while he admits there was talk of moving on last summer, it had nothing to do with football.

"We had a few months when we spent a lot of time thinking whether we should leave Eng-land," Schmeichel a father of two. said. "We have a boy who is II and we had to decide if he was going to be brought up here or to let him finish his education in Denmark. The manager came to see me and the club gave me some enormous support which helped us to stay.

By the time the comract is finished I will have done ten years

here I will become another forgot-ten player, just like Eric Cantona. Gary Neville once said this is a cynical club and it is true. Great Bruce and Mark Hughes come through and then they disappear. The fans remember them, but life goes on. It is tough, but it is what makes this club successful. I. would not expect any different."

Liverpool must heed Wenger's warnings

FROM MATT DICKINSON IN STRASBOURG

LIVERPOOL'S players endured a turbulent flight to Strasbourg yesterday and there are plenty of reasons why their Uefa Cup journey this season may remain a bumpy one.

Warning signs abounded for Roy Evans and his team before they ventured into tonight's secondround first-leg tie, but that should at least ensure no repeat of the complacency that encouraged the humiliation suffered when the club last visited France. Paris last spring saw Evans reach his nadir as manager at Anfield, a 3-0 defeat by Paris Saint-Germain in the first leg of the Cup Winners' Cup semi-final exposing deep flaws in the team's application and resilience.
The French, shocked by how

awful Liverpool were that night, remember the game well and will have been buoyed by renewed signs of fraility against Everton on

Saturday.

Of course, Paul Ince, who cele-brates his thirtieth birthday today, was not present in Paris, but while the England captain has undoubt-edly added much needed dynamism in midfield since his transfer from Internazionale, the area of doubt has simply shifted elsewhere — to the defence.

The Liverpool rearguard were turned inside out by Cadamateri. Everion's teenage forward, and Bjorn Kvarme could lose his place, with Mark Wright returning from injury to provide more cover for David James, who has plenty to prove to the French public. At least Strasbourg, taken over by Mark McCormack's IMG in the summer and thould be a provide. mer, should not surprise Evans

He has been extensively briefed by Glasgow Rangers, beaten in both games by Strasbourg in the previous round - added evidence that this is no easy inture. After a poor start, Strasbourg have started to climb the French League and they are highly rated by their former manager, Arsene Wenger, now in charge of at Arsenal, who still owns a house in the area.

"Liverpool must be very wary because this is a team with excellent support and they can cause them a lot of problems on their own ground," Wenger said. "It is a very very similar draw to the one we had against PAOK Sálonika. You are looking at a team with the potential to finish in mid-table in the Premiership, but one which can hart you over two games.

perticularly through David Zitelli. who is a noted specialist in deadball situations. Their defence has been strengthened by two Czech internationals, Jan Suchoparek is an excellent defender and Alex Wengle is a fine goalkeeper."

Liverpool's chances have not been helped by an Achilles tendon injury to Patrik Berger and a groin strain suffered by Karlheinz Riedle, both players have stayed at home for treatment.

Evans will be forced into changes and is likely to turn to youth. Michael Owen, 17, could start alongside Robbie Fowler, and Danny Murphy. 20, may return to the team in midfield. Jamie Redknapp travelled with the squad, but Evans implied that he may not have recovered sufficient match fitness.

ATHLETICS

Wenger: domestic warning

Sutton may not defend title

FROM DAVID POWELL ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN CHICAGO Games, although I am not so

WHEN Carey Pinkowski, the Chicago Marathon race director, said he was looking forward to seeing Marian Sutton achieve next year something no man or woman has managed in the 21-year history of the event — a third victory he may have been overlooking one thing. Sutton is not certain to return.

Sutton won here for the second successive year on Sunday and is the only Briton holding a marathon title from

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one of the main, commercial big-city races. Aged 34, she has long held the ambition to run in the four leading international championships. She has appeared in world and European championships: the Commonwealth

Games and Olympics remain. If she contests the Commonwealth marathon next year in Kuala Lumpur, that will rule her out of the Chicago race a month later. "I would like to do the Commonwealth

of which developed here for the first time during a race? Sutton, whose salary is less TWO SPORT WHAT'S ON FUN KNOWLEDGE MONEY SHOPPING TALK INTERNET than half her \$54,000 (around £33,000) winnings here, said: "I do not earn a great salary. Maybe I am being silly not giving it up but I like the contrast. I go to work and do not think about running but something will have to change." With more planning. "How fat a profit have

> al best 2hr 29min 03sec that she ran on Sunday. Paul Evans, who lost his Chicago title, finishing sixth, will not attempt to regain it next year. He enjoys a sixfigure annual income from commercial marathons and has not run a championship marathon since 1993. Now he is aiming for the European

she believes she can go "quite

a bit quicker" than the person-

sure I would like to do a

marathon in Kuala Lumpur,

Sutton said. "I will go home

and think about it." The 10,000

metres might be an option

followed by the Chicago event.

Several questions need answering. Which marathons

will she run next year? Should

she give up work as a solici-

tor's secretary, or at least

reduce her four-day week, to

advance her training? Why is

she prone to nosebleeds, one

title in Budapest next summer. "I have earned a bit of money and been sensible with it, but one thing I have not got is a medal." Evans said.

Practice that may help make perfect

IF HIGH-PROFILE preparation counted for anything Janice Moodie and Mhairi McKay, the talented Scots. would coast through the US LPGA (Ladies' Professional Golf Association) Tour's final qualifying tournament, which starts today at Dayto-na Beach in Florida (Patri-

cia Davies writes). Moodie and McKay, seasoned internationals but novice professionals, tuned up for 72 holes of tension by practising with Tiger Woods - one of McKay's contemporariers at Stanford - and Mark O'Mean.

Today, more prosaically, they join 18 other Europeans among more than 100 other hopefuls attempting to earn their card for next season.

early European exit this season, because the Uefa Cop is now just "a consolation competition". Wenger said: "The European League is getting nearer and

because it would mean too many games — ten games in the group is the equivalent of a small championship. But it will be the next stage because television wants it. television means money, and television means the game.'

have been four groups of six, with

the best two in each group going

They didn't want to do that,

Samassi Abou is expected to

Ham last week. Per Pedersen, the Blackburn Rovers forward, is set to go on loan to Borussia Mönchengladbach. Pedersen has had talks with the

£400,000 move to West Ham

United. Abou, 24, a France Under-

21 striker, has been playing for Cannes and had a trial with West

German club and expects to sign a deal that will keep him in the undergo a medical at Upton Park country until the end of the season.

GOLF: STROKE OF LUCK WINS REGIONAL FINAL OF CORPORATE CHALLENGE

Slade ends on high note for Opus

Arsenal manager forecasts European union

IT WAS a shot in a million, the sort that professionals dream of and amateurs dare not even imagine. It came as a complete surprise to the man who hit it, but it was a very pleasant surprise, for it won the competition for his team.

The hole was the 9th at Stoke Poges, the competition the Western Home Counties regional final of The Times/MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, the play-er Bill Stade, playing for Opus 4 Integrated Limited, a

Woking-based firm specialising in corporate real estate and facilities management. The hole was the eighteenth that Slade and James Devane, his partner, had played. They

GOLF give their team any chance of victory. Nobody, least of all the two men themselves, ex-

THE TIMES

Mees Pless

pected them to play it anywhere near as well as they

The hole is a long par-four measuring 459 yards, but it was playing a good deal longer than that in the inhospliably windy conditions. Devane played it well enough, hitting a drive and a flying

wedge back to ten feet; from where he made the putt for a net birdie and three Stableford

So far, so good, but it was but the overture to Slade's big number. Left 120 yards from the pin in two, he drew out his seven-iron and, with the ball a good foot below his feet, hit it It was going at a rate of

knots when it arrived at the green, but Slade's glimmerings of horror were assuaged when the ball hit the pin, took a look at the hole and dropped in for a birdie, net eagle, four points; lovely. It was as well that the pin got in the way — if it had not, then the ball was heading for the next county. So. Slade and Devane

Colin Buckley and Peter Tubb. had gathered only two there. On the other hand, Buckley and Tubb garnered six points on the 10th, and their team-mates scored a fat zero.

It gave Opus 4 victory with 82 points, one ahead of Mantisflow Limited, with Data Connection Limited a further point behind. It was a proud victory, but it was one that would never have happened but for Slade's golden, final shot of the day.

RESULTS: 82: Opus 4 Integrated Ltd. 81: Mantislow Ltd. 78: Date Connection Ltd. 78: Commercial Union: Pinewood Print. 78: BP OR UK Ltd. Beyer plc. 74: General Ltd. 73: Estoble Ltd. Edwin Hill: General Telecom: The Flangeley Cb (Cl) Ltd. 72: AC Lloyd (Buttiers) Ltd. 70: Topp Er Ltd. The Status Group: Summit Medical; Tetra Lavel. 68: Darbys Solicitus: Treescheede Instruments & Controls Ltd. Bloc. plc. Voldafore Control Worcester. 68: PDFM Ltd. No return: 19: Merishire Independent Hospital: Saville International Property Consultants.

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Rivals could leave China to race alone

BY CRAIG LORD.

EVERY one of the 1,000 or so this decade, compared with three for swimmers heading for the world championships in Perth in January may be tested for drugs on atrival in Australia, or soon after, as a direct consequence of a wave of astonishing performances at the National Games of China in Shanghai last week.

Such action would more than double the number of out-of-compention tests taken by Fina, the international governing body, last year, when more than £400,000 was spent testing some 800 swimmers.

World records fell at 200 metres medley and 400 metres medley in Shanghai, while the world-ranking lists were flooded with the names of Chinese women, many of whom had never been heard of before. In six out of the 13 individual Olympic events for women, Chinese now occupy five of the fastest ten times in the world this year. In the 400 metres medley - in which Chen Yan, 16, recorded 4min 34.79sec to erase the last remaining East German record from the books - there are six Chinese women among the fastest ten swimmers of 1997.

In 1995, China was excluded from the Pan-Pacific championships, with rival nations threatening to take direct action at the Olympic Games in Atlanta if China did not clean up its act. That plan of action is now being dusted off for Perth.

A source close to US Swimming said: "If the Chinese arrive in the physical state and form they showed in 1994 before their fall from grace, rivals may well step back from the blocks at the start of races and let the Chinese race alone. It may be our

The results in Shanghai met with widespread condemnation from a world swimming community that is calling for more stringent policing of a nation that has produced 23 the past decade had come from hard positive tests for anabolic steroids work and not doping.

the rest of the world. Fina is now believed to have adopted a proposal from Terry Gathercole, president of Australian Swimming Inc, that every swimmer should be tested on accrediration in Perth, where racing starts at the Superdrome on January 8. That programme has been costed at about

Cornel Marculescu, director of Fina, said yesterday: "OK, so you can say we are suspicious of what goes on in China and we can only keep on being suspicious until we have the proof. There will be some number, a lot more, tests, but we are not saying where or when. These will be unnanounced." He confirmed that the extra tests would be geared to

An element of surprise caught the Chinese out at Hiroshima airport in 1994, when seven swimmers, including two world champions, tested positive for anabolic steroids.

Fina has imposed stringent drug rules under pressure from leading nations, such as Australia and the United States, since Chinese women flooded the world rankings at the National Games of 1993 and went on to win 12 out of 16 world titles in 1994. If four swimmers from one nation test positive in a 12-month period the whole nation can be suspended, but the rule is weakened by a clause which says that if the swimmers are reported to Fina by their own federation, then only the individuals, not the nation, shall be suspended.

When a Fina delegation went to China in late 1994, the Chinese swimming federation offered further positive tests as proof that it was fighting what it described as an "endemic drugs problem". However, Guo Qinglong, the lederation president, now insists that the success of



هكذامن رلامل

Burden considers his options before attempting a pot during his victory over Bond yesterday

Bond finds Burden too great

BY PHIL YATES.

NIGEL BOND yesterday fell victim to the epidemic of upsets that has swept unchecked through the Grand Prix in Bournemouth but John Higgins, the world No 2, reached the last 16 after being on the threshold of defeat.

Bond, winner of the Regal Scottish Masters two weeks ago, was beaten 5-3 by Alfie Burden, the world No 122, who, like John Read, a surprise conqueror of Rounie O'Sullivan on Sunday, performed admirably on his television debut. Given the alien conditions and the importance of the match, Burden predictably did not reproduce the fluency that brought a break of 143 in the first round but, with Bond struggling, it was not required.

Burden won the opening frame on the black, the third on the blue and the eighth, by which time he admitted being "anxious to get over the line", with a long black. Clearly

Burden has an eye for the target. Bond's defeat means that no member of the Team GdeZ Capital management stable, which includes Stephen Hendry, Ken Doherty and O'Sullivan, will figure in the last 16 despite 15 of them having been involved in the last 64. Ironically Burden is a former client.

Higgins was in desperate straits when Quinten Hann, a peroxide blond from Wagga Wagga, made a 141 total clearance to lead 4-1. It was the highest break in the televised phase of the tournament, eclipsing 140s from Jimmy White in 1990 and Dave Harold three years ago. As a

14-year-old, Hann was suspended for two years by the governing body of the amateur game in Australia for spitting on the mother of a fellow competitor. Although far less tempestuous these days, Hann, now 20. retains a brash streak that surfaced in several strange shot selections during the closing frames.

Trailing 40-1 in the sixth. Higgins responded with an 87 clearance, easily added the seventh and levelled at 4-4 as Hann became overadventurous at a time when caution was required.

Higgins kept control to win a lowscoring decider and said: "Quinten tried to take the mickey, going for doubles and the like, but I still didn't think I could turn it around because I was struggling and he was cueing so well."

RUGBY LEAGUE

Bradford bid for Robinson

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

JASON ROBINSON is expected to be made available within the next 24 hours for the British Gas series against the Australian Super League ream next month, which will come as a relief to Great Britain, despite the refusal by the Australian Rugby League (ARL) to release his Wigan colleague, Gary Connolly.
Bradford Bulls have joined

Wigan in wanting to buy Robinson out of the remainder of a four-year, £1.25 million contract with the ARL. These moves, and conciliatory talks involving Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby Football League chief executive, appear to have secured Robinson's release for the match at Wembley on

Saturday week.

Connolly's case is more complicated and a pending knee operation means that he would probably miss the three-match series anyway. He is not due to take up his ARL contract until his existing one expires at Wigan, in June 1999. In the meantime, he has received offers from Newcastle and Harlequins to switch to rugby union.

Unlike Connolly, Robinson sees his long-term future in Britain, either at Wigan or Bradford, who made a surprise approach to the ARL last week. Robinson's likely availability strengthens the hand of Andy Goodway, the Great Britain coach, who is in need of good news after a series of injuries to leading players.

St Helens have signed another forward, Paul Davidson, from Oldham Bears after the club's move into voluntary liquidation. Joe Faimalo is expected to join Salford Reds, and Francis Maloney and Paul Atcheson are being linked with London Broncos and Warrington

IN BRIEF

Worcester turn to Argentina

CHRISTIAN BARREA, who played twice against the Eng-land rughy union team during their summer tour of Argentina, is to join Worcester on a one-year contract. Barrea, 25, has made three international appearances at scrum half, though against England he played for Cordoba, his province, and Argentina A.

He joins the ambitious Midlands club at a time when they lead the Jewson National League first division, after attracting attention when he played against England A at Northampton last year. "He was looking to progress his rugby by coming to England. and we look forward to seeing how he can compete for Worcester," Les Cusworth, the club's director of rugby, said.

Cricket: Sachin Tendulkar will be replaced as India captain by his predecessor. Mohammad Azharuddin, a national selector has been quoted as saying. The selector, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Week news magazine the action against Tendulkar had the backing of the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

Boxing: Herol Graham's bout against Vinnie Pazienza, of the United States, has been switched to Wembley Arena. It was scheduled for the Goresbrook Leisure Centre in Dagenham, but Wembley has now agreed to stage the World Boxing Council international super-middleweight bout on December 6.

Cricket: Rain, which left the playing area ankle deep in water, threatened to wash out the final day of the second Test match between Pakistan and South Africa after the fourth day was abandoned in Sheikhupura yesterday.

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL	
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL), Sari Francisco 35 Atlanta 29; Delkas 26 Jacksonvalle 22 Carolina 13 New Christers Q. New York Jess 24 New England 19; Philadelphia 13 Arzona 10 (07); Seatile 17 St Louis 9; Termenses 28 Washington 14; Master 24 Baltimore 13; Prissburgh 26 Canairmeti 10; New York Gients 26; Derroit 20 (07); Caidand 28 Denver 25.	NY Glanter Dullas West rington Polisidalphie Anzona Green Bay Minnegota Tampe Bay
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POOLS FORECAST SECOND DIVISION BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION 40 Celts v St. Johnstone 41 Dundee U v Rengers 42 Kilmem'k v Hibernian 43 Motherwell v Aberdeer M Luton v Brendoro 5 Millyell v Wgan 6 Presion v Weshen 7 Southend v Oldfam REST DIVISION THIRD DIVISION

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NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

Imingham v Oxford

TRUSTEE ACTS

LEGAL NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

SECOND DIVISION. Micidestorough; Stoke, Bristol Rovers Gillinghem, Milwell, Hull, Peterborough. Vince Wright

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BASEBALL WORLD SERIES: Cleveland 6 Florida (basi-of-seven series tied 1-1).

BASKETBALL

BUDWESER LEAGUE Swilled IS

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Plym-cuth 97 Britton 57, Teesside 81 Coventry 78 Third division: Stoke 69 Wars 51.

GOLF FOOTBALL ITALIAN LEAGUE: Parma 2 Bologna O. SPANISH LEAGUE: Esperiol 5 Real Betts

NOTICE IS HERES' GIVEN pur-turns to section 175 of the Com-penies Act 1985 (the "Act") that by written resolution of the abover respect occupants (the

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Balanerreas 1 Vitoria Gurnareas 0; Bertina
3 Farense 1, Leca 1 Campomatorase 0.
BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Juventude 0
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Parmengo 0 Pelmalarea 0; Goles 2
Fluminense 2; São, Paulo 0 Contitos 0;
Pluminense 2; São, Paulo 0 Contitos 0;
Pluminense 3; Saropa 1, Caurará 1
Sport Reputa 1, Unideo São Jose 3 Atletico
Michelo 5; Parana 1 Vitora 2; Gremo 1
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United v Workson Town: Winstard United v Spennymon United: Statland Rangon or Hindsidy: United v Neitherheld or Whithy Town: Raddiffe Borough v Findley Athetic or Leigh Flak, Staturindge v Great Harwood Town; Witton Albon v Paget Rangers or Biston Town: Softwal Borough v Altrean Town: Garnsborough Timity v Bedworth United: Workington v Homopale Town: Mattock Town v Sution Coldield Town: Lincoln United v Belber Town or Droyfester, Lemworth v Micor Green, Fleet Town or Droyfester, Lemworth v Micor Green, Fleet Town or Adienshof Town: Carabridge City v Deriford, Carabridge City v Deriford, Crawley Town: Carabridge City v Deriford, Crawley Town: Carabridge City v Deriford, Crawley Town: Staturing Color
ORLANDO, Florida: Walt Disney Clessic: Leading final scores (LS urless stated) 270: D Duvet 65, 70, 65, 70 Avon at first extra hole; D Fotoman 67, 66, 65, 68, 17 Type 67, 68, 68, 69; 272: L Mathace 67, 66, 65, 74 P Goydes 69, 70, 68, 66, 273; D Boome 74, 64, 66, 70, 274; J Duran 68, 66, 71, 70; 275: P Blacknes 69, 66, 69, 72, 1

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KAANAPALI; Hawaii: Hyen Regency Mar. Keenapeli Classic: Leeding final score 76, 73, 76.

HOCKEY

Vestminiser v Goucesier City, Isca v Farefreim Robertsons v Chelmstord; Od Certilegians v City of Portsmuth: Old Georgians v Si Aberrs, Trajens v Chelmstord, Od Georgians v Si Aberrs, Trajens v Chelmstord, Hents v Odord Hanker, Bournermouth v Beckenham; Winchester v High Macentham Handler of Johnson Wycombe; mawerii v autilisiin.

DiTies to be played on November 2

NATIONAL LEASUE (NHL): Passburgh 4 Florida 1: Chicago 5 Buffalo 2: Vancouvet 4 Colorado 4 (OT), Ottawa 3 Dallas 1: New York Islanders 5 Anshelm 2: Edmonton 3 Los Anglese 2 (OT); Phoenix 5 San Jose 3 SUPERLEAGUE: Manchester 4 Ayr 3 (OT):

RUGBY UNION WORLD CUP: European zone: Pool one: Crostia 23 Russia 16 (at Makerska) Denviran 8 Georgis 19 (at Frederiksberk). Pool three: Germany 31 Czrch Ropuble 17 (at Henover) Pool two: Usraine 48 Betgium 5 (at New) Americas zone; Chile 65 Bentructa 8 (at Santiago)

SCHOOL MATCH: Durham School 10 Hymers College 10

WHITEREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE: First log (Southampton to Cape Town). Positions (at 12 OOGNT, with miles to Cape Town): 1, EF Language (Swe) 165.3, 2, Mant Cup (Monaco) 301.8; 3. ing 3, 2, seek cody (reduced) 301.3; 4 Silk Cut (139) 619.2; 5. Chessia Racing (US) 884 (20 Toshiba (US) 991.7, America & Challenge (US) 1041.2; 8. Seedinn Match (Seet) 1.148.9; 9.5 Education (Seet) 1,345.3, 10. BrunelSunergy (Holl):1,489. ICE HOCKEY

SNOOKER

BOURNEMOUTH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE: Grand Pric Third round; J Read (Eng) bt T Murphy (N ter 5-4, J Hosen (Eng) bt T Murphy (N ter 5-4, J Hosen (Scot) bt O Harn (Aus) 5-4; A Burden (Eng) bt N Bond (Eng) 5-3; C Small (Scot) bt P Device (Wales) 5-2.

SPEEDWAY

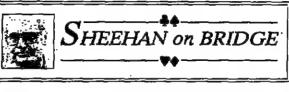
YOUNG SHELD: Semi-final, first leg: Reading 47 Exster 43 EASTBOURNE: International matrin: Eng-land 43 Austrola 53 (Australia win the series

STUTTGART: Men's tournement:

LUREMBOURG: Women's tournament Pirst round: K Habsudova (Stovaka) w/o Spirlea (Rom) sor; E Listroviseva (Russ) bt y Basula (Indo) 7-5, 6-1; S Testud (Fr) bt A Carlisson (Swe) 6-1, 6-4, J Kruger (SA) bt M Malbeva (Bul) 6-2, 6-3.

4.251 pts. 2, M. Chang (US) 3.385, Rafter (Aus) 2.889, 4, G. homesvic 2.622; 5, G. Rusedain (GB) 2.554, Kafahikov (Russ) 2.480, 7, C. Moya 2.451; 8, Struguera (Sp. 2.387, 9, T.M. (Austria) 2.311; 10, M. Fico (Chile) 2.286 vasarra; 2.311: 10, M Ricc (Chile) 2.286, 11. A Correta (Sp.) 2.251; 12, G Kuerton (Bri 2.340; 13, J Bjorkment (Skel) 2.162, 14, F Manatila (Sp.) 2.135, 15, R Krajicek (Hoti) 1.999; 15, T Enquist (Swel) 1.927, 17, P Rotto (CDI) 1.880; 18, M Philippous as (Aus.) 1,809, 19, T Henman (GB) 1,785, 20, A Costa (Sp.) 1,778

g6 Kg7 Rxc8 Rh8



By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

The London Trophy Bridge Competion is for "non-bridge" clubs typically tennis and golf clubs where bridge is played. This year Hilton Hotels sponsored the event. This is a hand from the final.

Dealer East Love all Aggregate scoring +6 **♥**J1075 **+** K Q 10 5 3 +KQJ1053 **9542**

VADE2 W **YK983** +1084 +762 +A97 +KQJ952 PAJS

Pass Pass Pess 4D

After a spade lead, rwelve tricks were made for 170. North should probably bid on the first round but South's hand is much too strong for an "intermediate" jump overcall. That shows an opening bid and a good six-card suit. Double is unsatisfactory with a singleton heart, so I think South should just have bid

Two Diamonds. What is clear, as the East player Danny Roth pointed out to me, is that North had a cost-nothing bid when he was given a second chance. He should have bid Four Clubs, which would show at least some diamond tolerance. That would have enabled South to bid Five Clubs and North would have converted to Five Diamonds.

☐ The Times Book of Bridge 1, a compendium of some of Robert Sheehan's daily columns, is now available in all good bookshops or direct from the publisher, B. T. Batsford, on 01376 321276, price £6,99 (plus £1 postage and packing).

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ANKUS a. A diacritic b. A Lydian measure

c. A goad GAU

a. An old district of Germany b. Fish glue c. A Vietnamese straw hat

c. A rift valley BUTEA

GRABEN a. A Teutonic Harpy b. A Countess

a. Rancid fat b. A sticky Eastern creeper c. Burmese tea

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keens CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Adams advances

The latest performance by Michael Adams, of Great Britain, is clearly eague of top grandmasters. In the game from Tilburg today. Adams adopts his favourite Nimzo-Indian Defence and outmanoeuvres the reigning junior

Nimzo-Indian Defence

White: Shaked Tal Black: Michael Adams Tilburg, October 1997

d4 3 Nc3 4 e3 7 'Chect2 9 d5 0 g3 1 8g2 0-0 Nd7 14 Rael 8a6 Re8 Kg2 Bxc8 NI6 Drc8 Rc1 Ne4

Nxt6-i

CXCC5

Oc4

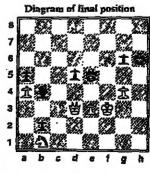
,KI3

hag3

27 Qe4 28 ,KI3

033 Ndi 45 Kg2 46 Qe2 47 Nt2 48 Nxe4 Cod3 Ord5 Qt3 50 Kg3 51 Og2 52 Kt3 54 Od3 56 Nb1

Rc1



☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in

the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

Bxl6 Qa6

By Raymond Keene White to play. This position

is from the game Reti -Sterk, Vienna 1910. Here White's active pieces created the opportunity for a quick finish. Can you see how he broke through?

Solution on page 50



arriana (Sirian) and the second second

30 m

₩.... E'% ·

Marie Marie Harris

All-female crew embarks on their latest challenge

Edwards on crest of wave

REBECCA STEPHENS



joins a crew chasing another record

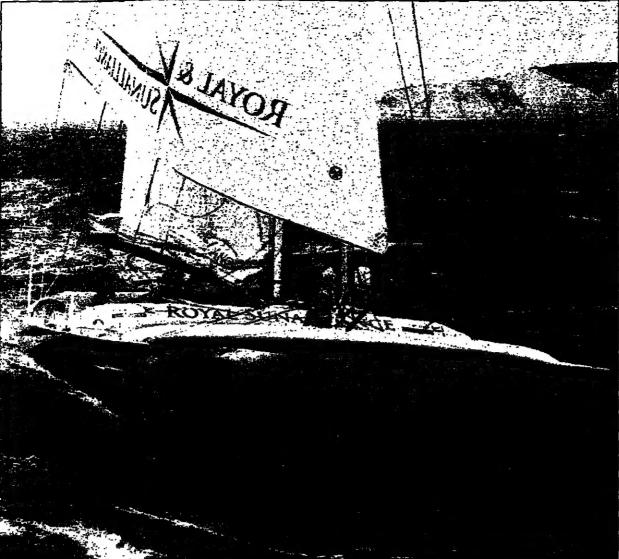
TRACEY EDWARDS and her crew may justifiably be proud of themselves for their recent entries into the record books for the fastest, all-female transatlantic crossing and cross-Channel sprint from Cowes to St Malo but, somehow, it does not seem that important to them.

More urgent matters are at hand: first, to break the speed record for sailing round Great Britain and Ireland and second, as a grand finale, the Trophée Jules Verne non-stop circumnavigation. To them. all-female records are an irrelevance; they will enter the record books anyway for completing the course. They are interested only in universal records for any crew - male

"We learnt lots from the transatiantic," Edwards said, unperturbed by the Atlantic Highs that left their vessel becalmed mid-pond, ending their chance of breaking Serge Madec's 1990 record of less than seven days. "We touched 32 knots without even tying and coming very close to a 500 [nautical] mile day. Maiden did 300 miles in a day."

Maiden, of course, was the boat on which Edwards became the first female skipper of an all-female crew in the Whitbread Round the World Race. That was eight years ago. Shortly after that she retired from yacht racing altogether, choosing instead a pastoral life breeding horses in the Glamorgan village in which she had spent her childhood. Now 34 and fully rested, she is itching once more to show the world that, on the oceans at least, women can compete in sport alongside the best of men.

Her chosen boat this time is Royal & SunAlliance, the 92ft catamaran formerly known as ENZA New Zealand, holder of the Trophée Jules Verne from April 1994 to May 1997. "She's lo years old now," Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, the boat's former co-skipper, said, "but she was ahead of her time when she was built." Edwards said: "She goes like a rocket. We



Royal & SunAlliance is a veteran of arduous voyages, having won the Trophée Jules Verne for non-stop circumnavigation

proved that on the transatlantic and we |the crew| proved that we're capable of getting the best out of her. Gave us lots of confidence."

Confidence is something it is impossible to imagine Edwards ever having lacked. Or perhaps, more precisely, it is dogged determination that she has in spades, together with the self-belief that allows her to take risks that others would baulk at. She mortgaged everything to buy her boat and had the bank hammering at the door before, finally, two years down the line, she walked into the boardroom of Royal & SunAlliance and talked them into a sponsorship worth £4.27 million.

Hence the blue and yellow livery of the boat and the n christening. The new Royal & SunAlliance has had a complete refit since her ENZA days. New lightweight winches, blocks and shackies and new rigging have all helped towards an increase in periormance of at least 10 per cent, according to Ed Danby, one of the successful crew on the Trophée Jules Verne and now

Edwards's project manager. With professional financial backing comes the wherewithal for a professional set-up at Hamble on the South Coast.

Danby and two full-time support staff share an office at the marina and, for any of the team otherwise without accommodation, there is the crew house in town. All are experienced sailors and all and this is important. Ed-

wards says — are on full pay. Walk into the kitchen and the food co-ordinator for the boat, Suzie Mayhew, greets you with a grin and a plate laden with whatever happens to be on the menu that night.

knocked me into shape pretty quick." Jo Gooding, the camerawoman on Rayal and SunAlliance, is another schoolfriend of Edwards and was also on Maiden, as was the oldest and one of the most experienced on the crew, Michèle Paret, a Frenchwoman.

Edwards candidly admits



Edwards: confident of breaking the speed record

We were at school together." harder for a group of women on a boat to get on with each Edwards said. "I went from a posh English school to a Welsh comprehensive and she other than it is for men. "We're all strong characters; we have to be to have got this far," she said and, with perhaps just a touch of hurt in her voice, added: "We're much more open to critism than the guys."

Any other disadvantages to being women? "Only 'grunt'," she said, "but we make up for that by using our heads. There are lots of ways we can make it easier for ourselves — fixing platforms for grinding winches and such.

Others agree. "Sailing is like chess with press-ups." Sir Robin Knox-Johnston said. Technically, it's complicated and you've got to be lit to do it. DUIN COMBES DOWN TO T toughness at the end of the day." Sir Robin is of the view that they stand a good chance of breaking the Round Britain and Ireland record, weather permitting As is Helena Darvelid, a

Swedish member of Ed-wards's crew. She was on Steve Fossett's 60ft trimaran, Lakota, that holds the record of five days, 21 hours and five minutes, set in October 1994. "But we were expecting to do it in under five days," she said. "We had quite light winds."

SAILING

Crews hungering for finish

FROM EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT, IN CAPE TOWN

PAUL CAYARD and his hard-working crew aboard EF Language were on course for a convincing first-leg win in the Whitbread Round the World race last night. They were thundering towards the finish in Table Bay, averaging more than 14 knots, under clear early summer skies. Cayard, who was sailing

faster than everyone else in the fleet except the sixth-placed Toshiba, 820 miles behind him, was expected to cross the finish line in the early hours of this morning. Some 120 miles astern, a nailbiting battle was still going on between Grant Dalton in Merit Cup and Knut Frostad in Innovation Kvaerner, who were just two miles apart after 7.250 miles of ocean racing. Dalton just had the edge but with most of his spinnakers out of action, he was not confident he could hold off Frostad's determined posh. However, like several of the boats a long way behind them. Frostad is almost out of food, which could prove vital as exhaustion begins to take

eaten their way through the galley stores and minds were becoming ever more fixed on the meals they were planning to eat on the dockside. "I can't figure out what I am going to eat first," reported Cayard in one of his last messages during this long first leg that started off from Cowes on September 21. "I think some fresh fruit would be best, then

Cayard's crew have also

ANKUS

(c) In India, an elephant-goad. The Hindi word, from the Persian anguzh. Sanskrit ankuça. Rudyard Kiping, The Second Jungle Book, 1895: "It was a two-foot ankus, or elephant-gond — something GAU

(a) A territorial and administrative division of ancient Germany. including several villages or communities. In the Middle Ages, a larger division, over which, under Frankish rule, was placed a Graf. narger (uvesous, over winen, under reankts) rule, was placed a Graf. The word is a frequent final element of place-names, as Breisgau, Oberammergau. "The people looked for protection to the local ruler rather than the reigning prince, to the count of the district (Gau) and to the tribal duke."

GRABEN (c) A depression in the earth's surface bounded by faults; a rift valley. From the German word for a ditch. "The broad valley, or graben, of the middle Rhine is inclosed by maturely dissected scarps."

BUTEA (b) A member of a genus of Indian or Chinese trees or climber so named, belonging to the family Leguninosae. Especially Butea frondosa, the dhak or pales of India. Also the gum of these trees. Eponym of John Stuart, Earl of Bute (1713-97). "The Butea seedlings suffered greatly from the attacks of porcupines."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE [Rxi6! gxiii (I ... Rxib 2 Qxii5+ and the rook on all goes) 2 Qg3+ Ki7 3 Qg7+ Ke0 4 QxiB RxiB 5 Ng7+ with a winning material advantage.

maybe something really bad like a giant cheeseburger and fries."

Earlier, Cayard had spoken of variable winds ranging from 18 to 30 knots, requiring constant sail changes. Curtis Blewitt, from Canada, one of two bowmen on board, undertook a hazardous free-climb of the top section of the mast, 75ft above deck, in order to retrieve the only remaining unused balyard which was jammed at the top.

"He is a tough young kid. but I decided never to let him do that again," said his admiring skipper. "It just isn't worth it. If something were to appen ..."
The fleet is far more widely

spread out than expected and rumours are already beginning to circulate in the race village of possible crew changes once the boats dock at the new Waterfront complex.

Sackings after the first leg have been a feature of previous Whithread races and this one may be no different.

Among the crews thought most likely to see changes are Dennis Conner's Toshiba, skippered by Chris Dickson, which has made a terrible start to a race many had tipped it to win. Swedish Match, the well-funded entry skippered by Gunnar Krantz, which is down in eighth place, has also underachieved and there may be new faces in its afterguard on the next leg to Fremantie.

Changes are also possible on America's Challenge, skip-pered by Ross Field, and on the British boat, Silk Cut, skippered by Lawrie Smith which looks safe for a less than speciacular fourth place.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Holiday escapism

The exceedingly personable Jill Dando is back with the show that presents holidays as the brochines would like us to see them, with not a hint of delays at Gatwick or half-finished hotels miles from the sea. But we should not mock. The viewing figures suggest that such escapism is a beguiling formula. Holidays of the other variety can be left to Channel to The Pacel Holiday Stem which is also back this Holidays of the other variety can be left to Channel 4's The Real Holiday Show which is also back this week. As usual in Holiday, celebrity trips loom large, with Zoë Ball, Caroline Quentin and Neil Morrissey among those lined up to visit faraway places, though David Soul gets no further than Saloombe. Come to that, Dando is a bit of a celebrity herself. In tunight's programme she greets us from north Western Australia, where she drops in on a cattle ranch and tries the rejective. drops in on a cattle ranch and tries the pristine winte beaches.

Black Bag Channel 4, 8.00pm

Tonight's report has alarming tales about children from West Airica who are sustered by white British families. These private arrangements, which require neither training for the loster parents nor require neither training for the loster parents nor approval from the local authority, can work well. Keith Francis, a 75-year-old widower, looks after his two Nigerian charges as if they were his own. But the film also relates terrible cases of abuse and neglect. Two of the victims were Kriss Akabusi, the former Olympic athlete, and his brother Riba. What a Spanish foster mother in London made them do is not repeatable here. The Akabusis illustrate another danger of fostering, that children become unsure of their real identity. Riba says he found that his return to his native Nigeria a distressing experience. "I was an English boy in a black skin."

Cutting Edge: Sex, Lies and Aliens Channel 4, 9.00pm

Lolo Ferrari, a model who boasts a 71-inch chest, is coming to town, the markings on a cow look like Jimmy Hill and a woman claims that her son was abducted by aliens and turned into a lish linger. Such stories are meat and drink to The Sport, which insists, despite much evidence to the

Jill soaks up the Australian sun (BBCI)

contrary, on being a newspaper. For ten years The Sport has fed its readers, mostly young working-class males, a diet of sex and sensation. Tony Livesey, the Editor-in-Chief, says that like Shakespeare he is giving the public what it wants. The comeras drop in on a frenetic day at the office. An airline's refusal to insure Lolo and her chest in case of a mishap in midair leaves Livesey with the prospect of having five empty pages to fill. But when Gianni Versace is murdered The Sport is equal to the challenge, outdoing even itself with a tasteless headline.

Network First Life After Grace ITV. 10.40pm

The history of the Grimaloi dynasty continues with Princess Grace dead in a car crash and the media turning its gaze on her children. As the film makes clear, the pressures on Stephanie and Caroline have been relentiess. But the two princesses could hardly have provided the prurient with a steadier flow of material. The procession of husbands and boyfriends, and children born in and out of wedlock, becomes bewildering. Poor Prince Albert has attracted attention for the opposite reason. He has attracted attention for the opposite reason. needs to get married to produce an heir, or the needs to get married to produce an heir, or the dynasty will come to an end. So far there is not a guiffriend in sight, which does not stop the media jumping to conclusions every time he gets within camera shot of a possible candidate. Parallels with the House of Windsor disturb. Peter Waymark

The celebrations for the 75th anniversary of the BBC are going on a bit too long for my taste but this is a programme that would be worth hearing

this is a programme may would be wornt mearing even without the encase of a birthday. It is the stray of John Logic Baird and although his name is familiar to most people (he transmitted the first nelevision pictures) the details of a somewhat frustrating life probably are not. Although television was well established, at least technically, by the time Baird died at the end of the Second Worther were have developments to come in

The Archers Radio 4, 7.05pm

I thought that no good would come of developing I thought that no good would come of developing the younger characters in The Archers, which has been one of the distinguishing marks of the soap over the past couple of years. Now I see that half the cast are to be humished with protest signs over a bypass. Not that the cast will have to carry the signs, this being radio, but it all sounds a bit demeaning. Kate Aldridge, played by Kellie Bright, is behind the protests over the bypass and appears to have recruited an alarmingly high number of villagers to the cause. The question that tremains is whether the writers have decided that this will be a neaceful protest, or is Kate about to be this will be a peaceful protest, or is Kate about to be hauled off to jail? A guest appearance from Swampy is needed, surely.

6.30em Kevin Greening and ZoB Bell 9.00 Simon Mayor 12.00 Jo Whiley, Includes 12.30pm Newsbest 2.90 Mark Redolffer 4.00 Davis Pearce 6.15 Newsbest 6.30 Steve Lamecr. Evening Session 8.30 Digital Update 8.40 John Peel, Includes a Iva session by Flaming Stars 10.30 Many Arme Hobbe 1.00em Cive Werren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

8.00mm Alex Lester 7.30 Serah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jersny Young 1.30pm Debble Thrower 3.00 Ed Slewert 9.05 John Dunn 7.00 Richard Stigoe's Classical Ges: 8.00 Wayne Mershall's Organ Spectacular 9.00 Malae Em Laugh! Mel Brooks 9.00 Sesing by Wireless. See Choice 10.30 Richard Allineon 12.05mm Steve Madden 3.00 Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

8.00mm The Breakfast Programme 8.00 The Magazine with Nicky Compbell 12.00 Midday with Meir 2.00gen Russice on Five 4.00 Nationalds with Justen Wonfoker 7.00 News Boins with David McNeil 7.35 The Tuesday Match. Action from the Uesa Cup second-round, first-leg metches 10.25 News Tells 11.00 News Boins 12.00 After Hours 2.00em Up All Night 6.00

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00mm Jeremy Clark 7.00 Chris Evena 10.00 (FM) Robin Benie (AM) Graham Dene 1.00pm (FM) Nick Abbot (MW) Nicky Horne 4.00 Ruse 'n' Jose 7.00 (FM) Paul Coyle (AM) Calmin Jones 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00mm Richard Porter

TALK RADIO 6.30em Paul Ross and Carol McGiffen 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2,00pm Tonnny Boyd 4.00 Peter Deeley 7.00 Arms Resburn 9.00 James Whate 1,00em Ian Collins

Philhermonic and their principal conductor, Maries

6.00em On Air. Introduced by Andrew McGregor, Includes Couperin (Disieme Concert, Les Gouts Reunis); Strauss (Four Last Songs); Fauré (Elegie); Mozart (Violin Soneta in El minor, K304); Haydn (Overture: Die Feuerbrunst); Beethowen (Symphony No 1 in C)

9.00 Morrang Collection, with Peter Hobday, Includes Mozart (Divertimento in D. K136); Bach (Suite in Bliminor, BWV 1067); Mozart (Chrio Mi Scordi di Te? K505); Handel (Concerto Grosso in Gliminor, Op 6 No 6)

KS05); Hendel (Concerto Grosso in G minor, Op 6 No 6).

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Geraht Lewis in Cardiff. Includes Mendelssohn (Mitten, Wir in Leben Sind); Matthias (Vistas, Op 69); Parufnik (Concerto Festivo); Rachmeninov (Daisies, Op 38 No 3; Steep, Op 38 No 5); Shostakowich (Symphony No 11 in G minor, Op 103, The Year 1905); Morton Gould (Boogle Woogle Eude).

12.00 Composer of the Weels William Walton 1.00pm Lunchtime Concert. A concert given lest yets in St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, by London Winds. Altib Haydir (Ootet in F); Jonethan Dove (Figures in the Gerden); Mozart (Serenade in C minor, K388) (f)

2.00 The BBIC Orchestrias, BBC Philhamtonic Orchestra under Vassili Sinaisty. With Lycla Mozdiovitch, violin, Szynianowski (Concert Overture; Violin Concerto No 1); Shostakovich (Symphony No 6)

(Symphony No 6)
4.00 Volces, with Isin Burnside (r)
4.45 Music Mechine. Tommy Peason visits the
Concert Hall in Osio to meet the Osio.

5.55em (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Feming Foday 8.25 Prayer for the Day 8.30 Today 8.45 Dear Bill. W.F. Deades reads from his autobiography (2/5) 8.58 Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Call Ed Stourton. Telephone 0171-580 4444 with your questions:

10.00 (LW) Delity Service. Live from Wells Cathedral, a service as part of the celebrations for the 75th arminessary of the BBC

10.00 (PM) News, Meyer Times Australia. The story of Australia's early years, based on the first-hand account of Lieutenant Waltim Tench, a young officer in the Marines (1/6)

10.15 (LW) On Talls Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler

officer in the Marines (1/6)
10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler
10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray
11.30 All in the Mind. Protessor Anthony Clere
Investigates attempts to improve the quality of
service officered by professional psychologists
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Lealey Filddoch
12.25per Booked! With Jon McMiller, Mark Thomas,
Days McCauch Pills Report and Mills (Factor)

12.25pm Booked! With lan McMillen, Mark Thomas, Roger McGough, Diffle Keane and Miles Kington 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Carke
1.40 The Archers (f) 1.56 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Books and Company. Kate Saunders asks whether the talest crop of leminist authors has anything to add to the ongoing debate (f)
2.30 Personal Records, Jeranny Nicholas explores the record collection of Kerineth McKeller, hoping to find musical and personal revolutions (5/6)
3.00 The Atternoon Staft, with Daire Brehan
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleldoscope. Paul Allen sees Pater

Postnermonic and their principal conductor, Martes Jansons
5.00 in Tuans. Sean Ratterly talks to the Chairman of the Britten Trustees, Donel Mitchell, about the relationship between Britten and Haydn
7.30 Performance on 3. Live from the Adrian Boult Hail in Birmingham. Anya. Alanese, pieno.

Gubaldulina (Chacomne): Meditner (Two Palry Tales, Op 20): Froir Pairy Tales, Op 20): Prolodiery (Tales of an Old Grandmother, Op 31;

Suggestions Diaboliques, Op 4) 8.10 More of a Coup fran a Revolution. The historian Orlando Figes looks back to October 1917 and the beginning of the Russian Revolution 8.20

Rachmaninor (Corall Variations, Op 42). Plus a group of pretudes and moments musicast.

9.20 Peatscript: The Life of Delt. Ian Gibson recalls now Salvador Deli met his muse, Gala, the wife of the Franch poet Paul Buard (2/4).

9.40 Stravitusky Plus. BSC Netional Orchestra of Wales under Martyn Brabbins. With Sarah Waller, mezzo. Martin Roscoe, plano. Stravitsky (Franches; The Fran and the Shephedess; Capriccio); Lynne Plowman (Blue); Stravirsky (Crous Polies) (3/3)

10.45 Night Waves. Richard Coles sees Tim Albery's ENO production of Jansock's The House of the Dead at the Colissum

11.30 Composer of the Weeld Glinica (r)

12.30 and Jazz Notes. John Darikuorth's 70th birthday celebrations continue at Wavencion.

stewalte as Macbetti at the Bristol Old Vic prior o a national tour

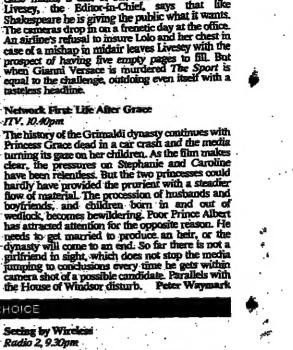
Postewalte as Macbetii at the Bristol Old Vic prior to a national tour

4.45 Short Story: Poppty Seed and the Sessine
Rings, by Elizabeth Jolly. Read by Kerry Fox
5.00 PM 5.50 Shoping Forecast 5.55 Weether
6.00 Sht O'Clock Heres
6.30 Travels with My Aunt, by Grahem Greene,
Grammised by Fene Basilico. With Danne Hilds
Bractest. Charles Kay and Roger Stoman (4/5) (i)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers. See Choice
7.20 File on 4. Presented by Mark Whitefer
8.00 Science Now, with Peter Evans (i)
8.30 Telding the Plungs. The sucio diary of a village
vicer who makes a life changing decision (3/4)
9.00 in Totach, with Peter White
9.30 Kaleidoscope (i) 2.59 Weather
10:00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Badilines The Olving Bell and the
Rutterfly, by Jean-Dominique Badby. Read by
Richard Demington (2/5)
11.00 Headhanwaye. Presented by Nick Highern (f)
11.30 (Fill) Foreign Correspondence. Chris Nuttal
campares different views of istanbut, the city is
used to cal home (i)
11.36 (LW) Today in Parliament. A roundup of the
Clay's from in Westminster
12.00 Heres 12.30cm The Late Book: The Drowned
World, by JG Ballard, Read by Nicholae Parrell
1,00 As World Service.

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12.48 (LW) Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

PREQUENCY GUIDE, RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8, RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2, RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720; RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 693; 909, WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55mm).
CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215, TALK RADIO, MW 1058, 1,099.
Television and radio designs compiled by Peter Deer, fan Hughes, Solemary Smith, Susem Thompsop, Jame



War, there were huge developments to come in which he would surely have taken a leading role. which he would surely have taken a leading role. The programme mines readings from Baird's memoirs with the recollection of those who worked vith him, and of his offspring. Peter Barnard

WORLD SERVICE 8.10mm, Newadey 6.30 Europe Today 7.09 News 7.15 The Wood Today 7.30 Safe Presity-the Logacy 2.00 News 8.15 Off the Shaft: The Portrait of a Lady 8.30 Chill Cust 8.00 News, News in Gentrari (#88 only) 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 See It My Way 9.20 Everywormen 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 Revokation 10.20 Plays in Focus: Look Back in Anger 10.48 Sports Flouridge 11.00 Newsdesk 71.30 On Screen 12.00 Newsicsk 12.30pm; Elvis Pressy-the Logacy 1.00 News, News in German (#48 only) 1.05 World Business Report 1.15 British Today, 1.30 Heesth Masters 1.45 Sports Flouridge 2.00 Newshour 2.00 News; 3.05 Catlook 3.20 Multitrack I'll List 4.00 News 4.05 Sports Flouridge 4.15 See It My Way 4.30 The Greenfield Collection; News in German (#48 only) 5.00 Europa Today 6.30 World Business Fleport 5.45 British Today 8.00 News 9.15 The World Today 6.30 Waveguide; News in German (#48 only) 6.45 Sports Flouridge 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 One Planet 8.00 News 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 6:30 Megamix 9:00 News Not Custors 2:30 News for Thought 6:30 Megamix 9:00 News four 10:00 News 10:05 World Business Report, 10:15 Bittein Today 10:30 Merkiten Live 11:00 News desk 11:30 The World Today 11:45 Sports Roundup 12:00 News 12:30 The Farming World 1:45 Britain Today 2:100 Newsdesk 1:30 The Farming World 1:45 Britain Today 2:10 Newsdesk 2:30 Discovery 3:00 Newsday 2:30 Merkiten Live 4:00 News 4:05 World Business Report 4:15 Sports Roundup 4:30 Europa Today 5:50 Newsdesk 5:30 Furnos Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00mm Alen Mann 9.00 Nick Balley, Includes The Classic Masterplace and a recipe for pizza 1.00pm Listener Request Hour with Jane Jones 2.00 Concerto. Vecudemps (Violin Conceto No 5 in A minor) 3.00 Jernie Crick 7.00 Neversight with John Browning 7.30 Sonsta. Tertini (Sonsta for Violin and Guiter in G minor, Op 1 No 10, Didding Abbiendorsta) 8.06 Evening Conceto. Vaugitam Williams (Fantasia on a Therne of Thomas Tollist) Breams (Plano Concerto No 2 in 8 fat); Mozat (Symphony No 39 in E fat) 10.00 Michael Mappin, Includes et 11.35 Noctume 2.00mm Concerto () 3.00 Mark Grittiffe



Athletic Bilbao vs Aston Villa live from 8:15 tonight.



THE HISTORY CHANNEL

CHALLENGE TV

The truth, the whole truth and nothing but?

Before sending down to The Phil Silvers Show, to watch the devious Sergeant Bilko demonstrating again that it's not so much which rules you break that define you, as how you break them, we all took notes as Fergal Keane gave The Huw Wheldon Memorial Lecture (BBC2) on The Art Of The Reporter.

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Keane, the BBC's eloquent Asia correspondent, is against flashy, look-at-me journalism the way the Pope is against sin. "Truth-telling - artful, fearless and intelligent." that's something that Keane feels must be protected from the arrival of 24-hour electronic news in general, and of the rumour-filled Internet in particular, which he worries might devalue the foreign correspondent's role What a pity." he says, "if technology, far from pushing us into another Age of Enlightenment, was to return us to the rumour-ridden gloom of the

Resist the temptation to be drawn into the Oliver Stone school of faction - myth and history, truth and distortion, mixed into one dubious lump of studge." The sort of reports he treasures are John Simpson's from Afghanistan, or Charles Wheeler's from the Georgian massacre, or Martin Bell's from Bosma, or Sue Lloyd Roberis's from Burma. Me too.

But wait a sec Oliver Stone is not a reporter, he's a film-maker. And doesn't Keane's anxiety about the trivialisation of news by novel electronic media echo the early fears of Fleet Street print journalists, who thought that television's arrival would inevitably turn all news into bite-sized McNuggets? Many newspaper journalists might still argue that even the BBC which has more resources, and

is (a teensy bit) less ratings-

offers a poor alternative to newspa-

So that's why Keane urges us to: pers when it comes to offering a Resist the temptation to be drawn fullish picture of, say. Algerian fundamentalism or Martin Amis's dental work. For one thing, television news tends to be excited by a story's news value only if there is a: camera handy to film it. Without pictures, the news producer back in London rarely has much appetite for a story, however important.

> till, someone has to paint the Plimsoll line and Keane is a fitter man than many: The talented correspondent," he says, must resist the celeb-driven nonsense, the wretched preoccupation with looks and image which infects so much of American television journalism." Of course he should. Still worse is the prospect of the untalented and sub-literate being elevated to journalistic stardom be cause they're deemed suitably telegenic — in other words, the beautiful airhead syndrome." No names mentioned. "I don't have any fears

REVIEW

هكذامن رلامل



Joseph

Joe

of this happening at the BBC." This was presumably ironic. though the audience didn't laugh. But Piùnsoll lines are one thing and staying alloat is another. However noble a reporter's search for truth might be, deadlines force journalists to make the best of what they have: everyone can file a better story in two bours' time, but by then it will miss the paper or the

journalist speeding to a deadline is a beautiful airhead, viewers might But, says MacGregor. "She (unfairly?) nurse doubts about it; but when the correspondent is someone whose talent viewers trust - Keane, say, or Wheeler they are minded to believe that what they have just seen or heard is the full picture. And any smart journalist knows that he is as likely to have got that as he is a free lunch from Peter Mandelson.

The problems that can arise when we trust that what we are seeing is all there is to see were highlighted in Making Master-pieces (BBC2), when Neil Mac-Gregor, director of the National Gallery in London, put Veronese's The Vision of St Helena under the microscope. I've never thought twice about the colours in this painting, but they bother MacGregor, According to legend, St Helena discovered the cross on

But, says MacGregor: "She had the vision in the sunny Mediterranean. So why do we see her now against a chill grey sky that looks much more appropriate to the East Coast of Scotland?

fter infra-red analysis. MacGregor finds that Veronese actually painted the sky a warming blue in the loth century. But he used smalt, a cheap pigment, which has discoloured to a muddy grey. MacGregor explains that "there is nothing that we can now do to recover the blue that Veronese once painted. We simply have to live with the picture as it now is, knowing that it no longer true to Veronese's intentions. A picture like the St Helena reminds us that every painting is really a dialogue between the artist and his materials. If those materials are unstable, or

rise to a curious paradox: when the nese shows her having a vision of change, then what it communicates will be distorted - often in ways that he could not have foreseen. The materials will determine how accurately we can now receive his meaning." MacGregor sounds as though he has the makings of a diligent foreign correspondent.

Curiously, the one artist whose intentions are not always clear in his Surrealist paintings seems to have been a rather more direct communicator in real life. In Omnibus: The Fame And Shame Of Salvador Dali (BBCI), Dali's friend Maria Luisa Gonzalez recalled Dali's response when his sight of Dali and his chums swimming starkers in Cadaques: "Dali replied: 'My friends are not depraved and look, I'll give you what I owe you,' and he took a bag. filled it with sperm and sent it to his father." Any reaction? "His father was incredibly angry." Now that is something I can believe.

6.00am Business Breakfast (43808) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (82418247) 9.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3586131) 9.30 Style Challenge (8774781) 9.55 Kilroy (4258268)

10.35 Change That in Harrogate (8025228) 11.00 News (T) and weather (7407524) 11.05 The Realty Useful Show (7) (7430150) 11.35 Room for Improvement A house containing freland's smallest church; sesh windows (r) (3448421).

12,00 News (T) and weather (8880773) 12.05pm Call My Bluff (7553150) · · · 12.35 Going for a Song Russian artefacts and royal artworks (5235711):

1.00 News (1) and weather (47315) 1.30 Regional News and weather (73384599) 1.40 The Weather Show (50587222) 1.45 Neighboura (T) 71093711)

2.10 Quincy A young girl brought into hospital
after a road accident dies in mysterious circumstances (r) (8022957) 3.00 Through the Keyhole (r) (1274334) 3.25 The Realty Useful Show Update (4624150).

3.30 Playdays (7642565) 3.56 Arthur (8725044) 4.15 Fudge (8988228) 4.35 The Cuesn's Noise (8541402) 5.00 Newsround (1) (2815841) 5.10 Byker Grove (1) (8221286) 5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (217353)

6.00 News (1) and weather (334) 6.30 Regional News (696)

Holiday: New series of the travel show, with presenter Jill Dendo festuring reports from Western Australia, libiza, the resort of Hammanet in Tuniste and Whitstable, Kent (7) (3696) 7.30 EastEnders Philis brought back down to earth with a borno by a visit to Kathy, Joe. goes, missing, leaving Lorraine frantic with worry (T) (570)

Match of the Day — Live: Strasbourg v Liverpool Desmond: Lyram introduces coverage of tonight's Usia Cup second round, first-leg tile at the Stade de la Mienau. Commentary by Barry Daviss-and David Pleat, with studio englysis from Alan Hansen, and Trayor Brooking. (1) (74625841)

9.55 News (T) regional news and weather (978247)

10.30 Omnibus: The Fame and Shame of Salvador Dall in the concluding instalment of isn Gloson's potrait of Salvador Dall, he travels to America. where the artist spent an eventful later life (T) (25150) WALES: 10.30 Tales from the Health Service (45518) 11.80 Omnibus (57792) 12:00 Grand Prix Shooker (2415087) 12.50em FILM: Doel at Diaboto (933803) 2.30 News headlines

11.20 Grand Prix Snooter Highlights of the fourth round (232402) 12.20cm Duel at Diablo (1986) Violen western, with James Gamer as a tough army scout who joins forces with cowboy Skiney Poitier to take on a merauding Apache chief and his bloodthirsty braves. Directed by Ralph Nelson (T) (722464)

2.00 Weather (8560193)

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the Video PlusCode for the programme you
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6.00em Arts: The Great Exhibition (34150) 6.30 Informer, Eduquer, Divertir? (17686) 7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (9327808) :::

7.15 Teletuibbles (r) (6630228) 7.40 Smurts' Adventures (r) (4007995) 8.05 Blue Peter (r) (7769995) 8.30 Calde Doke (r) (7133044) 8.40 Rupert (r) (2396131) 8.45 Henry and the Hendersons (r) (T)

9.10 Weigh History (3233150) 9.25 See You, See Me (7878599) 9.45 Numbertime (8336976) 10.00 Teletubbles (r) (T)

10.30 Watch (6489689) 10.45 Teaching Today (178334) 11.15 Megamaths (T)-(5017985) 11.35 History File (T) (3448063) 12.00 See Hearl (r) (59711) 12.30 pm Working Lunch (86353)

1.00 Fiddley Foodle Bird (32165792) 1.10 The Countryside Hour (7356599). 2,10 Grand Prix Snooker Fourth-round action from Boumemouth (94255889): 5.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (r) (207402) 6.25 Heartbreak High (21.1976)

7.10 The O Zone Ash on their soundtrack for Ewan McGregor's new film A Life Less Ordinary (601624)
7.30 Private Investigations Residents from a

small North Wales community, fed up with the noise from a local factory, outline their complaints to the owner. Plus: a London women searches for a cure for insomnia. Last in series (T) (112) 8.00 Della Smith's Winter Collection

traditional Sunday roast (r) (1) (7266) 8.30 Looking Good The last in the series looks at the forthcoming party season and the trouser suit (1) (6773) 9.00 Till Death Ue Do Part (r) (2315)



Phil Daniels (9.30pm).

9.30 Holding On Final part of Tony Marchant's drame. Brenda and Claire find comfort in each other's company and make a few difficult decisions about their fives. Janet has an atlair with a charlematic lawyer, while a dishevelled Shaun lums up on Annie's doorstep and Gary faces up to his drinking problem (T)

10.30 Newspight (1) (555605) 11.15 Seinfeld (T) (909605) 11,40 The Larry Sanders Show (T) (309676) 12.00 The Phili Silvers Show (b/w) (4161483) 12.25am Weather (1654803)

12.30 Learning. Zone: The Making of Benjamin Zephaniah (5268990) 12.35 Volcances and the Atmosphere (5117844) 1.00 Norfolk Broads: Conservation v Commercialism (29209) 1.30 The Conjudium of Co-Existence (5000) 1.00 Chemister (2920) 1.00 Chemister (2920) 1.00 Chemister (2020) 1.00 Chemi (53700) 2.00 Ghostwriter (92281) 4.00 The French Experience 5-8 (52803) 5.00 Business and Training: Career Moves

6.00am GMTV (4731150) 9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (3582315) 9.55 Regional Nevas (7682470)

10.00 The Time, the Place (28792) 10.30 This Morning (1) (77364957) 12.20pm Regional News (8886957) 12.30 News (T) and weather (5238808) 12.54 HTV Crimestoppers (42212889)

12.55 Shortland Street (5213599) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (78673686) 1.50 Quisine (T) (71076044) 2.20 Vanessa (T) (74299518) 2.50 Fashion Police (T) (9066266) 3.20 News (4627247) 3.25 Regional News (4626518)

3.30 The Riddlers (8740179) 3.40 Wizadora (9226150) 3.50 Zzzap! Autumn Special (9222334) 4.00 The Adventures of Paddington Bear (8125599) 4.15 Hey Amold! (T) (8997976) 4.40 Sunny's Ears (T) (1541288) 5.10 WALES: Don't Try This at Home Kids

(3612179) 5.10 Relative Knowledge (3612179) 5.40 News (T) and weether (450131) 6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (201228) 6.25 HTV Weather (110537)

6.30 HTV News (T) (222) 7.00 Emmerdale (T) (5044) 7.30 WALES: Grass Roots The last in series comes from the Welsh Deiry Show (266) 7.30 Take 3 Reports on Issues affecting the region (266)

8.00 The Bill: Force Monroe goes out on the best with Jarvis (T) (4792) 8.30 Paul Medon in Galton and Simpson's Lunch in the Park A couple who have been conducting a secret tryst in the park for the past ten years discover that they are about to be found out (T) (3529) 9.00 Soldier, Soldier Primmose's first race

sees the boys inventing a foolproof way of making a killing (T) (9711) 10.00 News (T) and weather (54266) 10.30 Regional News and weather (265773)



Caroline, Albert, Stephanie (10.40pm)

10.40 Network First: The Grimaldi Dynasty The effects of press intrusion on Prince Albert and Princesses Caroline and Stephanie (1) (188614) cultural face of Europe (406228)

11.40 Charile Grace: Take life to the Pilot Drama about an LA detective grappling with the demends of single parenthood and a heavy caseload (406228) 12.10am WALES: Short Story (4144716) 12.40am Planet Mirth (1672209)

1.10 Late and Loud (9315731) 2.05 The Chart Show (r) (2842938) 3.00 Football Estra (r) (5314532) 3.55 World of Sailing (r) (96981551) 4.20 Phenomena (97038006) 4.35 The Time, the Place (r) (56945919) 5.00 Heirloom (r) (75990) 5.30 News As HTV West except: 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (5213599) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (3612179) 5.59-6.00 Air Watch (958624)

6.25-7.00 Central News (592353)

7.30-8.00 Heart of the Country (265) 11.40 Central Sports Special (956570) 12.40em Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (6997613) 1.15 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol

1,35 War of the Worlds (6957984) 2.25 The Paul Ross Show (6439984) 3.50 Central Jobfinder '97 (9377984)

5.20 Asian Eye (7826174) WESTCOUNTRY As HTV West except

12,20pm-12,30 (lluminations (8886957) 12.55-1.50 Emmerdale (4557518) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (3612179) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (58570) 7.30-8.00 Compliments to the Chef. A visit to the Drawe Arms (266) 11.49 Highlander (956570)

MERICAN As HTV West except: 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (3612179) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (402) 6.30-7.00 Relative Knowledge (222) 11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (956570) 5.00am Freescreen (75990)

ANG AT THE

As HTV West except: 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (5213599) 2.50-3,20 The Fashion Police (9066268) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (3612179) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (592353)

7.30-8.00 Crown and Country (266) 11.40 Highlander (956570) Starts: 7.00em The Big Breekfast (60266) 9.00 Ysgollon (969686) 11.30 The Living Sea (8976) 12.30pm Ricki Lake (71421)

12.00 Sasame Street (51179) 1.00 Slot Meithrin (32141112) 1.15 Pingu (32179996) 1.30 To Baidly Go (34018773) 1.50 Film: Buffelo Bill (92234131) 3.30 Collector's Lot (860) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (995) 4.30 Feast (179) 5.00 5 Pump: Uned 5 (6150) 5.30 Countdown (131) 6.00 Newyddion (667860)

6.10 Heno (874632) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (322605) 7.25 Brodyr Bach (680402) 8.00 Y Chrb Ryghl (2334) 8.30 Newyddion (1841) 9.00 Equinox (7353) 10.00 Brookside (878608) 10.35 Frasier (470179) 11.05 NYPD Blue (188452)

12.00 Witness: A Great Hatred (91984)

1.00em-1.30 Black Bag (14377)

9.00 Schools: Science in Focus (3570570) 9.22 Lost Animals (3882044) 9.30 Eureka

6.00am Sesame Street (13179)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (80266)

The second second second

(8333889) 9.45 Slop, Look, Listen (8321044) 10.00 Fourways Farm (3111402) 10.10 TVM (2103537) 10.25 How We Used To Live (2182044) 10.45 Quest (6462112) 11.00 First Edition (6072993) 11.15 Stage One (63688860) 11.30 The Living Sea: Project Scubs (r) (T)

12.00 Sesame Street (51179) 12.30pm Light Lunch (74247) 1.30 About a Banana Who has Lost His Skin. Puppet animation (56987268) 1,35 Crash Dive (1943, b/w) Second World

War drama starring Tyrone Power. With Dana Andrews and Anne Baxter. Directed by Archie Mayo (T) (40726082) 3.30 Collector's Lot 1950s feshion (1) (860) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (7) (995) 4.30 Countdown (7) (8535841) 4.55 Rickl Lake: Can Teen Curlews Cut Crims? (1) (8454570) 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (131)

6.00 Moviewatch (804) 6.30 Roseanne: Lets Call it Quita There is a new supervisor at the factory (r) (T) (824) 7.00 Channel 4 News (I) (773204)

7.50 Deadline 2000 Are cities sustainable centres for population? (650814) 8.00 Black Bag: A Very Private Practice. The private (ostering of West African children. Kriss Akabusi and his brother Riba tell of their

traumatic childhood (1) (2334) 8.30 Brookside Rechel finally turns the tables on Christian and Mick changes his ston concerning the events surrounding Gladys's death (T) (1841)



9.00 Cutting Edge: Sex, Lies and Aliens A look behind the scenes at The Sport newspaper, which is ten years old this year (1) (7353) 10.00 Visions of Murder (1993) with Barbara

Eden, Terry O'Quinn and James Brolin, A therapist has visions that one of her R. Rhodes (T) (122957) 11.40 Atlantic City (1980) Louis Malle's witty, bitter-sweet American lable about an ageing petty crook with fund memones of

ageing petty crook with fond memones of the gangster era. Starring Burt Lancaster and Susan Sarandon (T) (558518) 1.40am Late Night Ricki Lake: I Like Bad Girls (r) (1) (1997174) 2.25 Artwer (r) (8572938)

2.45 Love's Secret (r) (4291174) 3.05 Extract (r) (34863551) 3.15 Boomerang Kids (r) (3722735) 3.55 Permanent Wave (78972342)

2.30 Up in the Clouds (r) (4212667)

4.00 Schools: Top (122938) 5.40 IT in English

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite.

Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz, sound:

6.00am 5 News Early (2656315) 7.30 Milkshake (7679112) 7.35 USA High (r) (5263614) 8.00 Havakazoo (8050711) 8.30 WideWorld (8059082)

9.00 Espresso (5222063) 10.00 Exclusive (6978686) 10.30 Period Rooms (f) (T) 11.00 Leeza (7814501) 11.50 Double Espresso

(44954334) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (8020570) 12.30pm Family Atlairs (r) (T) (2619911) 1.00 5 News Update (T) (99820995) 1.05 Sunser Beach (T) (1087247) 2.00 5's

Company (4384353) 3.30 Animal Behaviour (1989) starring Armand Assante, Karen Allen and Holly Hunter. Romantic comedy about a music professor who falls in love with an animal

(3497112)

5.20 5's Company --- Late Extra (55643421) 5,30 Whittie Audience participation quiz (T) (8033334)

6.00 100 Per Cent Game show without a host (8030247) 6.30 Family Affairs (1) (8021599)

7.00 Vanessa's Duy with . . . Edwina Currie Vanessa Feltz spends the day with the former Conservative MP (T) (688889)

7.30 5 News (T) (8043711) 8.00 Exclusive As a prejude to tonight's football action, the programme talks to some of Britain's soccer stars, including Dean Holdsworth, Jamie Redknapp,

and David Ginola, plus an interview with the Chalses squad (2007315) 8,15 Usfa Cup Football Live coverage of Asion Villa's second-round, first-leg tie

against Atlético Bilbao in Spain (30803599) NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to late running and alteration

10.30 Bring Me The Head of Light



11.00 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (5474570)

12.45em Live and Dangerous — World Series Baseball Action from the third

Endgame (f) (8575280) 5.30 100 Per Cent (5107700)

SKY 1

8.00am Morring Gibry (376247) 9.00 Regis and Kathis, Lae (50112) 10.00 Another World (88765) 11.00 Days of Our Less (3269) 12.00 Open Worldey (12782) 1.00pm Geraldo (86112) 2.00 Sally Jassy Papines (50315) 3.00 Jerny Jones 21879 4.00 Open Jillinine (33711) 5.00 Sally Jassy Papines (50316) 2.00 Jerny Jones 21879 4.00 Open Jillinine (33711) 5.00 Sally Jillinine (3389) 4.20 Membel with Children (5269) 7.20 Jillinine (3389) 4.20 Membel with Children (5269) 7.20 Jillinine (3389) 4.20 Membel (7208) 3.20 Coppent (5315) 9.00 OPEN Best Endernos Ever Caught on Tape (57860) 1.00 The Ever Caught on Tape (57889) 10,00 The Editection (50976) 11,00 Star Trek: The Next Generalism (48222) 12,00 Late Show with David Lessomen (20454) 1,00ean Long

6.90am. Guiet and the Dead (1987) (45167967) 7-45 Curse of the Vildeg Grave (1991) (51791247) 9.30 Rudy. (1992) (12773) 11.30 Quick and the Dead (1987) (19035556) 1.15pat Unstrung Herzes (1995) (72394112) 2.00 Curse of Hordes (1985) (7294112) 2.00 Carse of the Vising Greve (1991) (35063) 5.00 Heart of a Chempion (1985) [89978] 7.10 Unstrong Hordes (1985) (4828) 9.00 White Squall (1996) (65808) 11.00 Rumpelamindum (1995) (658087) 12.01am Some Kind of Miracle (1977) (328822) 2.20 Search for Justice (1996) (916724) 3.55 Drop Squad (1994) (80318774)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL. 3.30em Ginier Karaiy (1946) (84402) 8.30 Slack Feedier (1995) (80727) 10.30 Slockade (1938) (59809) 12.00 Speech-est (1984) (704518) 1.35pm Chast lanns (1989) (6776967) 4.50 Race for four Life, Charlier Brown (1977) 335019) 8.00 Fer from Home, The Johnshotte of Mellow, Dog (1994) 38131 7.30 Special Feature (1986) 8.90 The Attendance Accord (1985) 653711 9.20

© For more comprehensive Shorty (1986) (52082) 11.45 Hormoly Constants (1994) (52082) 11.45 Hormoly (52082)

4.00cm Jumping Jacks (1952) (431426) 4.00cm Jumping Jacks (1952) (431426) 4.00cm Jumping Jacks (1963) 1/396889) 8.00 Wo'rs No Angels (1963) 1/396834) 10.00 The Unicochables (1967) (67389005) 12.05em Finders Keepers, Losers Weepers (1967) 155512174) 1.20 Phy R. Again, Sem (1972) (1002534) 2.50 The Ballad of Cable Hogue (1970) (4941377)

(44894919) (79853006) 5.00 Close SKY SPORTS 1 Workshade sees coverage, with buildings the hoist, 24 hours a day, seven days a week bell League Review (26131) 8.00 V-Max. (47889) 8.30 Sports Centre (48824) 7.30 Foot-bell League Review (26131) 8.00 V-Max. (47889) 8.30 Sports Centre (48824) 7.30 Foot-bell League Review (26131) 8.00 V-Max. (47889) 8.30 Sports Centre (48824) 7.30 Foot-bell League Review (26131) 8.00 V-Max. 7.00am Sports Centre (46624) 2:30 Footbal League Rentew (25131) 8:00 V-Max (4788) 8:30 Sports Centre (3880) 9:00 Resing . News (20112) 9:30 Aerobics (4004) 10:00 Sparesh Primara Uga (8406) 12:00 Aerobics (40978) 12:30gm Berneley v. Coventry Cay (14705) 2:30 Watersports World (37618) 3:30 V-Max (5711) 4:00 Golf: Sertions Players Championship (55957) 8:30 White (5505) 2:30 Maximum (55957) 8:30 Western (5505) 4:30 Western (5505) 4:30 Western (5505) 8:30 Western (5505) 4:30 Western (55 (S711) 4.00 Golf: Seriors Players Championsup (55951) 5.00 Wresting (5605) 6.00 Sports Centre (1985) 6.30 Tarten Serior Sports Centre (1985) 6.30 Tarten Serior 2247) 7.00 Golf: Seriors Players Championsub (8259) 8.00 Greyhound Racing—Live (9505) 10.00 Sports Centre (4105) 10.30 The Footballers Footbal Stow (8080) 11.30 Tarten Exts (9760) 12.00 Sports Centre (47984) 12.30 mm Pro Blanch (82504 (10835) 1.30 Golf: Seriors Flayers Championsub (20754) 2.30 The Footbal Stow (85995) 13.30 Sports Centre (24622) 4.00 Close

SKY SPORTS 2 7,00im. Aerobics (2307711) 7.20 Sports Contro (2303518) 8.00 - Rezirg Néas (650402) 8.30 Feb TV (6172287) 9.30 Feb TV (6172287) 9.30 Feb TV (6172287) 9.30 Feb TV (6172287) 10.00 Feb TV (6172287) 10.00 Feb TV (617287) 10. SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Wreating (53520191) 1.00 Fish TY (51620911) 2.00 Big Laugue Classics (64653773) 3.30 Besebas (23784247) 5.30 Pro Beset Soore (3595505) 6.30 Survinal of the Fitnet (97025044) 7.00 Fish TV (73422711) 8.00 World Wide Ruby (73419247) 10.00 Golden Gives with Barry McGaiges (73421082) 11.00 Golden Olym-pics (2563657) 11.30 Close CLUDOSPOORT EUROSPORT

7.90mm World Cup Qualifiers (94975) 9.30
The Bast FeetingCar Races (35150) 11.00
Elemgosis (37353), 72.30pm World Cup
Driesm Team (60229) 1.00 London Trischlon
(81711) 2.00 Tractor Puffag: European
Champortation 24773 3.00 4nd Off Road
(9421) 3.30 Freetide Magazine (7739) 4.00
Terriss: Eurocand Open—Live (3861773)
9.00 Boarge Mills Offision w Mills Holder
(76537) 9.30 UEFA: Cup Second Round
First Log (52179) 11.30 Showjumping
(71859) 12.30tps Clesse
UK GOLD

UK GOLD

7,00mm Rantagnost (6825421) 7.35 Neightours (879886) 8.00 Crossnode (8568069 8.25 EastEnders (5534347) 8.00

The Bill (1008353) 9.30 Howard's Wey (489457) 10.00 Blass The House (5950131) 10.30 The Sulfwars (1002537) 11.00 Frank Stubbs Promotes (552504) 12.00 Crossnode (57010179) 12.25pm Neighbours (57013266) 12.55 EastEnders (1619179) 1.30 (H.De-H. 19077885) 2.10 2point Chicken (211063) 2.50 Are Vos Being Served's (403841) 3.30 The Bill (5196112) 4.00 Casually (5242313) 5.06 EastEnders (949065) 8.40 Bot's Full House (710082) 2.55 That's Shouldshoss (7696337) 7.00 R An't Haff Hot, Murn (7854334) 7.45 Liver Binds (5892247) 8.20 2point Chicken (1434782) 8.00 The Bill (1218411) 9.90 Casually (68620150) 10.35 Carried Carrott (1350965) 11.15 Fillshoss (14484782) 8.90 The Bill (1218411) 9.90 Casually (68620150) 10.35 Carried Carrott (1350965) 11.15 Fillshoss (14484782) 8.00 The Bill (1218411) 9.90 Casually (68620150) 10.35 Carried Carrott (1350965) 11.15 Fillshoss (14484782) 8.00 The Bill (1218411) 9.90 Casually (68620150) 10.35 Carried Carrott (1350965) 11.15 Fillshoss (14484782) 8.00 The Bill (1418411) 8.00 Casually (68620150) 10.35 Carried Carrott (1350965) 11.15 Fillshoss (14484782) 8.00 The Bill (1418411) 8.00 Casually (68620150) 10.35 Carried Carrott (1350965) 11.15 Fillshoss (14484782) 8.00 The Bill (1418411) 8.00 Casually (68620150) 10.35 Carried Carrott (1350965) 11.15 Fillshoss (14484782) 8.00 The Billshoss (14 12:18811 9.30 Castally (cocoris) 11.15 FILM: Carried Carrott (1350995) 11.15 FILM: Medicine Matr (1982) (345295) 1.08em (her at Jorglous (9073377) 1.50 Marri Vice (3087582) 2.20 Shopping (3584355) GRANADA PLUS

8,00cm Et Talk Soup (7083083) 6.30 Et 'Model (3846711) 7.00. Coronation St (5006570) 7.30 Femilies (5025805) 8.00

Geens Davis and allens Goldblum and Carey (Sky Movies Gold, Spm)

Lowissans (10271) multi-brounds Five-O rs (5)(21895) 11.00 Habrel Five-O (5)(3)(4)(3) 12.00 Coronation St (4)(7)(4)(2) 12.00pm - Fernillos (225/89) 1.00 Bind Date (225/94) 2.00 Upstairs. Downstairs (265/762) 3.00 The Grambleweeds Radio (2003/52) 3.00 The Gruntbleweds Haston Show (519837) 3.30 Å Fins Rumance (5984082) 4.00 Fortume Hunter (3490995) 5.00 Hasterij File (16480889) 8.00 Fortumes (5980269) 6.30 Contanton St (5971518) 7.00 Bland Date (1606808) 8.00 Fortume Hunter (1682229) 9.00 Contention St (3496179) 9.30 The Oothedises (2248353) 10.00 Hastell File (1605179) 11.00 Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00ms, Durboth (525) 8, 8.30 Lemb Crop (73637) 7.00 Austin: The Series (69745) 7.30 Quack Pack (63402) 8.00 Demanus (61841) 9.00 Austin: The Series (61250) 10.00, Boy Mast World (6482) 10.30 Wonder Years (88150) 11.00 Sectionly Love (12327) 11.30 New Doury (6369) 12.30 Bron and Pumbas (73402) 12.30pus Winnie the Polic (28256) 1.00 Secame St (79421) 2.00 America America (5807) 2.30 Lote Mermad (8268) 2.00 Fass Spin (4908) 3.30 Good Troop (5383) 4.00 Timon and Pumbas (4860) 4.30 Alactin. The Senes

(8024) \$.00 Gargoyles (8112) \$.00 Dino-saurs (4624) \$.00 Blossom (1537) \$.30 Boy Meets World (289) 7.00 Horse Improve-ment (6976) 7.30 Wonder Years (1773) 8.00 FB.Nr. Roonie and Joile (22689) 9.30 Home Improvement (84042) 10.00 Close

POX KIDS NET WORK

Address Support Supp

6.00cm Happily Ever After (58792) 6.30 Bobby's World (79711) 7.00 Sparou (77841) 7.30 Dennis the Menace (96976) 8.00 Bar Secretarian designation of the second of the

Art Attack (62112) 9.30 Earthworm Jim (20624) 10.00 Gravedele High (60063) 10.30 Fach Gordon (91624) 11.00 Creepy Creeters (56761) 11.30 Gigaritor (56660) 12.00 Gravedale High (62978) 12.30 pm Bots Master (91112) 13.00 Earthword 76112 1.30 Eets the Cat (23711) 2.00 Creepy Classfers (8334) 2.30 Fach Gordon (6062) 3.00 Sonte (7841) 3.30 Earthworm Jim (559) 4.00 Dennis the Manace (7334) 4.30 All Mater (5650) 5.00 Cines Arl Altack (3518) 5.00 Close CARTOON NETWORK All your lavourse carloons broadcast from 6,00km to 9,00pm, seven days a week.

NICKELODEON

8.00 mm. Hero Turtics (10518) 6.30 Hero Turtics (1526); 7.00 Bruno the Kid (4426); 7.30 Bruno the Kid (22773) 8.00 Hey Arnold (38131) 6.30 Hey Arnold (37402) 9.00 Rugaris (51052) 9.30 Rugaris (6566); 10.00 Doug (66678) 10.30 Doug (57266) 11.00 Againt Real Monsters (82247) 11.30 Againt Real Monsters (82976) 12.00 Rocks (88518) 12.30 pm. Rocks (66402) 1.00 Claress (45537) 1.30 Claresa (65773) 2.00 Moethe (3660) 2.30 Moestra (8606) 3.00 Kernen and Kid (2395) 3.30 Kernen and Kid (3353) 4.00 Rugaris (2660) 4.30 Rugaris (6044) 5.00 Seter Sider (4112) 5.30 Sister Sister (6624) 6.00 Sabrina (9537) 6.30 Settima (1119) 7.00 Close TROUBLE 12.00pm Suen's Crossing (108957) 12.30 Ready or Not (4883841) 1.00 Madison (6521226) 1.30 Sweel Valley High

Aladison (6521228) 1.30 Sweel Valley High (4882112) 2.00 Saved by the Bed (9161265) 2.30 Samm's Crosson (8119063) 3.00 9-2-5 (9149773) 3.30 Roady or Not (9121806) 4.00 Saved by the Bell (9100315) 4.30 USA High (9106599) 5.00 Hangtime (9152518) 5.30 Sweet Valley High (9120179) 6.15 Cm the Mole (4084228) 6.20 Misdison (8101044) 7.00 Hangome (9165082) 7.30 USA High (9107298 8.80 Close) BRAVO 8.00pm The A-Toom (9453886) 9.00 Crime Story (9466150) 10.00 Tour of Duty (9476537) 11.00 FILM: An Bye for an Sys (9865334) 1.00em Crime Story (6530716) 2.00 Tour of Duty (3043025) 9.00 FILM: Bordeytine (9743250) 5.00 The A-Team

PARAMOUNT COMEDY 7.00pm. Grace Under Fire (4976) 7.30

Roscamme (9773) 8.00 Ellen (3624) 8.20 Cybil (2131) 9.00 Cheers (75711) 9.30 Tou (86266) 10.00 Fronier (49247) 10.30 Absolusely (58996) 11.00 Festival of Fuh (347976) 11.25 Robin (588402) 11.30 Nightstand (95402) 12.00 Soap (41754) 12.30am | Love Lucy (57367) 1.00 Enterlarment UK (51803) 1.30 Tao (90290) 2.00 Rossament (122446) 2.25 Robin (7401613) 2.30 Festival of Fun (35984) 3.00 France [71667] 3.30 Absolutely (22464) 4.00 Close THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Sghtings (6077247) 9.00 Dark Skie: (6080711) 10.00 Space Rangers (6050570) 11.00 Friday the 13th (4392501) 12.00 Sghtings (9650529) 1.00am The Terilight Zone (1179055) 1.30 Tales of the Unappecied (7681445) 2.00 Dark Shadows (8515377) 2.30 New Altred Hitchcock (8421984) 3.00 Friday the 13th (1575613) HOME & LEISURE

9.00am Smply Panting (1004995) 9.30 Garden Calender (4892599) 10.00 The Great Gardening Plot (8599773) 10.30 New Yankee Workshop (100179) 11.00 Fizz Hun's Febring Adventures (1236947) 11.30 Hometime (1237976) 12.00 Garden Doctors (1004131) 12.30pm Two's Country (4898315) 1.00 Sweet Things (6527402) 1.30 Home Again (4895686) 2.00 Furnaure on the Mend (9134112) 2.30 Theas Four Walls (9122537) 3.00 Two's Country (9153247) 3.30 This Old House (9127052) 4.00 Closs

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Lonely Planel (1227598) 5.00 Ancient Warrons (9156792) 5.30 Beyond 2000 (9129353) 6.00 Hunters (4804334) 7.00 Mycterious World (9145228) 7.30 Deserver (9103402) 8.00 Descriver Margacine (9499600) 9.00 Raging Planel (9479624) 10.00 Alinae High and Wall (947271) 71.00 Professionals (6544179) 12.00 Flightline (2599006) 12.30em Justice Files (8944822) 1.00 Descriver (7087025) 1.30 Beyond 2000

1-00 Disaster (7087025) 1.30 Beyond 2000 (8955716) 2.00 Close NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Caustinea Mentime: Herod's Harbour (4502247) 7.30 Delaware Buy Banquer (7155044) 8,00 Monkeys of Henuman (7415602) 9.00 Arabia, Send and Sky (7435266) 10.00 Into Darkest Borned (7438283) 11.00 Splendid Stones (8810557) 13 90 Ambriton Widdle Advan-

Win with Prize Time two an hour 5,00pm Cross Was (9686) 5,30 Say the Wood (7570) 6,00 Family Fortunes (7711) 6,30 Catchphrase (9663) 7,15 The \$64,00 Question (427247) 8,00 Sphi Second (456565) 8,30 More on Up (7605) 9,15 (ascoco) a.30 More on Up (1605) 9.15 Wirner Teles Ali (771570) 10.00 Treesure Hunt (27696) 11.15 Whote (791334) 12.00 Say the Word (63700) 12.30am Hart to Hart (41025) 1.30 The Bg Valley (60342) 2.30 Bg Brother Jako (53358) 3.00 My Two Dads (41321) 3.30 Where I Live (77938) 4.00 Explorer (83735) 5.00 Shopping (86261)

4.00pm Stalm (2678112) 5.00 Civil Wal Journal (8881042) 6.00 Ancient Mystones (2842266) 7.00 Biography. The Kennedys (8951709) 8.00 Close

8.00am Lucky Ledders 6.35 Lingo 7.00 Tiny Living 8.00 I Droam of Jeenna 9.30 The Gordon Elioti Show 10.10 Jeen Springer 11.00 The Young and the Resiless 11.50 Brookside 12.20pm Why Me? 12.50 Rolande 1.40 Tempesa 2.30 Cheep Cha. 3.00 Living 17me 4.05 Jeny Springer 5.00 Rolanda 5.50 Lucky Ledders 6.20 Reedy.

UK LIVING

Steady, Cook 7.00 Hearts Aire 7.30 Mysteros, Mainc and Mizacles 8.00 Adver-air Junium 9.00 Fit.air. One of Her Own 11.00 The Spicy Sex Files 12.00 Close 7.00em Jasgran 7.30 Film Desware 8.00 Reehat 8.30 Business, 9.00 Revathi 9.30 Pastuku Oru Paatu 10.00 Periverten 11.00 Knobsurat 11.30 ZEE Health Show 12.00 Salkab 12.30pm Reehat 1.00 FILM 4.00 ZEE Zono Prosonts 4.05 Ouz Contest 4.30 Mest Mac! Hai Zindeg 5.00 Zone Time 5.30 Nays A.Z. 6.00 Kachi Choop 6.30 ZEE and You 7.00 Asp IV Farmesh 7.30 Chalo Cheme 8.00 News 8.30 Carsar 9.00 Since Chale Chine 9.30 Ghoomto Asino 10.00 Mohabbat Alk Mohabbat 11.00 Sa Ra Ga

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TUESDAY OCTOBER 21 1997

£20m bait lures clubs to consider split

THE BREAKAWAY FIVE

Wright: has invested in Wasps

BY MARK SOUSTER

AT LEAST five of England's leading professional rugby union clubs are considering a breakaway tournament financed by a £20 million investment from Benfield, the reinsurance company built up by the late Matthew Harding, the former vice-chairman of Cheisea Football Club.

Sir John Hall, Andrew Brownsword, Nigel Wray, Chris Wright and Ashley Levett, the respective owners of Newcastle, Bath, Saracens, Wasps and Richmond, met in London yesterday to consider the proposal, which was first mooted and discussed more

than two weeks ago. It is known that Benfield, a company worth in excess of £400 million, is interested in investing in the sport. Detailed discussions about a Super Six or Super Eight tournament - the latter which could include Sale, Leicester and Harlequins - have been held. If it happened, it would offer a financial lifeline for

individual investors. A spokes-man for Benfield said yester-day: "We cannot discuss projects that we may or may not be involved in."

The renewed threat of a breakaway has been rumoured for some time and brings the sport full circle. Despite public gestures of goodwill and co-operation, under the surface - for some at least — little appears to have changed from the uncertainty

of a year ago. Money is at the root of the secret negotiations. The owners have become increasingly concerned at the scale of their losses, which are far greater than anticipated and, they

Significantly, Bristol, Gloucester, London Irish and Northampton either were not invited to the meeting or refused to attend. That in itself indicates the growing polarisation of opinion within the ranks of the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division, Harlequins and Leicester were not invited because they are not owned by an

> consider, a direct result of the fractured structure to the season. England's international commitments leave nine Saturdays blank and mean that the clubs virtually shut down in November.

Levett said recently: Things will happen on our own terms if we do not get a have just watched Richmond's second home match of the

Wzay: will

season and it is the second half of October. We do not rule out a breakaway or pulling our money out of the clubs unless we can stage home matches every fortnight, as they do in

Hall: owner of

"Under the current structure, Richmond will definitely not enter the European Conference if we are unfortunate enough to come below fourth place in the Premiership this

cise — total rubbish.

Levett: threat to withdraw backing

Wray has also voiced his dissatisfaction. "We must have cash-flow," he said last weekend, "but we have two huge pauses in an important part of the season - September and then pre-Christmas. We will not tolerate a similar set-up next year. We will force

In a move that seems certain owners involved have also suggested refusing to release their contracted international players this autumn as a means of achieving their aim of regular fixtures. How players would react to being used,

Brownsword

Bath owner

game remains to be seen. That is an area where the Rugby Football Union (RFU)

in effect, as chips in a poker

the situation arise. Twickenham is known to want to have the international squad under direct contract, as well as to promote the concept of divi-sional rugby. Cliff Brime, the chairman of the RFU's management board, insisted ten days ago, at a meeting with the top 24 clubs, that this was

Any breakaway might ppear financially attractive in the short term, particularly for one or two hard-pressed owners and especially if a lucrative television deal could be secured. In the long term, it would seem suicidal. The clubs already have five-year agreements in place, signed only last season, with BSkyB and the RFU, and would face the risk of legal action should

Keith Barwell, the owner of Northampton, refused to attend the meeting yesterday. "I declined to go because I believe that the owners involved are grossly misreading the simation," he said. "A

they decide to go their own

planned is doomed to failure. On a business level they are experienced men and should be prepared to invest on a longer term and not be looking for short-term returns. But more importantly, on a rugby and player level, they are seriously misunderstand

ing what is going on.
To tear up the agreement in place is short-sighted and to talk about not releasing international players is counterproductive and tantamount to treason. I will not support anything which puts the players in a club versus country

Whether by coincidence or design, it was made known yesterday that the RFU is considering giving clubs an extra £300,000 a year in recognition of their imancial predicament. Although nothing has been finalised, the money would come from multimillion-pound sponsorship deals such as that recently signed with Carlsberg-Tetley, the new sponsors of the



Agassi stumbles again pursuing former glories

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN STUTTGART

ANDRE AGASSI, the tar- outing in seven weeks, and his standards when taking consolation from his opening-round defeat by Todd Martin here yesterday. After 70 minutes of resistance as spirited as it was erratic, Agassi was far from displeased because he had not been disgraced.

Even with odds stacked heavily against him, an element of charity is required to agree with the Las Vegas resident, True, this Eurocard Open was his first competitive

tions are entirely of his own making. That he wasn't distraught at losing to a man he had beaten on their past five encounters, spanning more than three years, offered compelling evidence of his diluted ambition. "I am still not at the stage where I get mad if I lose," the former world No I

Agassi, 27, was plainly unfit for his eagerly-anticipated return to Europe. A heavy sweat

OSSWORD

nished talisman of tennis, first outside his native country outset, although he struck strokes when his footwork could keep pace with his mind. The final denouement was that Agassi, now world-ranked No 102, could muster not a single opportunity against the Martin service. His opponent, by contrast, conjured a break in each set to prevail 6-4, 6-4. It was the eighth time this

year that Agassi has stumbled at the first hurdle. And this was a classic case of a player succumbing to a lesser talent. It should have hurt, instead Agassi spoke of his new-found commitment, of unrealistic expectations, of the long road back. "With hard work," he forecast, "I could literally be playing great tennis a couple of months into next year."

The conundrum is that Agassi, 27, pledged a similar resurgence 12 months ago. He vowed to be at his peak for the four grand slams, vet he contested only the US Open. reaching the last 16 before osing to the eventual winner. Pat Rafter. Now he talks about personal desire. The siesta is over. I really want to play."

That has certainly not been true of late. The gold medal at the 1996 Olympics aside. Agassi has endured a barren 18 months. His courtship and subesquent marriage to the actress, Brooke Shields, rede-



Agassi, serving against Martin yesterday, is still easily recognisable, although not as the player he was when he conquered Wimbledon

fined his priorities — as it was bound to, given the unyielding world ranking inside the top ten. To his credit, Agassi recognised that there was more to life than the sound of ball on highly-strung gut. "I do everything intensely," he said, "When I got to No I, it was tennis, tennis, tennis. It is not easy to do that for more

than a few years."

Perhaps Shields is now in a position to inspire him. "The only American I'm aware of who works harder than Brooke is the president of the United States," he said. "She is

The England international will spend the next week

scrutinising approaches from

Aston Villa, Tottenham

Hotspur and Crystal Palace.

Mel Stein, the player's agent,

confirmed that the three clubs

have made contact with

like the damn Energiser Bunny. Quite honestly, I think I have been nothing short of frustrating for her on that

Fortunately for Agassi, the termis community will invest untold patience in his rehabilitation. The game sorely needs him at his best — even if his appearance, like his game, is a shadow of the image which hypnotised Wimbledon in 1992. His blistering groundstrokes offer the perfect antidote to the advancing serveand-volleyers.

There were fleeting glimpses on display here, one

but he has never asked to leave

Rangers; and he remains very

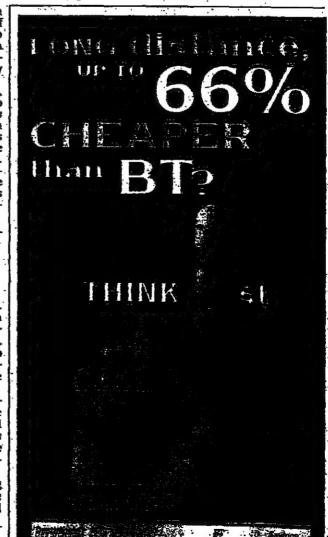
happy with his situation.

There is no pressure on him to

hanour it.

lob in particular sailed clean over the 6ft 6in silhouette of Martin before excessive top spin brought the ball down comfortably inside the base-line. Shots like that simply

cannot be taught. Meanwhile. Tim Henman. who teamed up with Rafter to post a first-round doubles victory over Karsten Braasch and Menno Oosting, opens his quest for the singles title today against Tommy Haas. Greg Rusedski's secura-round opponent will be Nicolas another local hope, Nicolas Keifer, who dismissed Thom-



Strachan linked with Benfica

BY DAVID MADDOCK

GORDON STRACHAN, the Coventry City manager, emerged yesterday at the centre of a battle of supremacy at Bentica when Valea Vededo, who is expected to take over as president of the Portuguese club, named Strachan as the man he wants to be coach at the Stadium of

Light.
The former Scotland international impressed Vededo in keeping Coventry in the FA Carling Premiership last season. If he is voted into the post today, Vededo is understood to want to make immediate contact with Highfield Road.

Vededo has been quoted in the Portuguese press as saying: "Gordon Strachan would be my first option as the coach to lead Benfica into the luure.' Benfica's only other British

former Chelsea defender, who was signed from Stamford Bridge on a free transfer in the Paul Gascoigne has sugsested that he is in no rush to leave Scotland, despite an

"It is true that there have Villa remain favourites. been approaches from the however, to sign Gascoigne, three clubs, and we will look at possibly early next week. They have made a definite bid, and their offers," Stein said. "But it while Rangers have said that is premature to say that Paul will be moving anywhere. Nothing is imminent, and he the decision over Gascoigne's future will remain solely with the player, it is clear the Scottish club is happy to do is very happy in Scotland. Paul will only move if the business

One club that will definitely not be joining the race to sign Gascoigne is Newcastle United, who reported, at yesterday's annual meeting, a £4 million increase in wages over the past year. The 30-year-old might be tempted to return to his former club, but Kenny Dalglish, the manager, has decided he cannot meet Gas-

coigne's financial package.
The other leading issue in Scottish football rumbled on vesterday when the premier division's breakaway teams were warned by the lowerdivision clubs that they need to come up with something new

offer is right for him. There has been lots of speculation, to break the present deadlock. Lex Gold, the Hibernian chairman, who is the spokesman for the top-flight clubs. wants a working group to meet this week for representago, he signed a new contract tives from both sides to resolve recently, and he is happy to their differences.

Jim Oliver, the Partick Thistle chairman, speaking for the lower-division clubs, insisted further talks were pointless unless the premier teams were prepared to outline their intentions in greater detail.

Oliver said: The working group was set up on the insistence of the top clubs and

Newcastle in black

all information was supposed to flow into it - if they have anything new to say then we can meet again, but the posmon seems to be they think they have given all the information they think they can, which we feel is not enough.

There are so many questions which remain unre-solved, not least who they have lined up to replace Bell's as league sponsors. The first division chibs stand to lose most."

THE多数。TIMES BOOKSHOP

ACROSS: 3 Vagabond 7 Sedate 8 Chador 9 Truent 10 No

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DOWN: 1 Hearth 2 Hazard 3 Venture 4 Ashford

5 Ordnance 6 Derelict 11 Snowball 12 Ex gratia

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1 Shoulder wrap (5)

Captivate (7)

5 Burial vault (5)

7 Exonerate (7)

13 Bevelled edge (7)

15 Good-natured (7)

16 Certify as true (6)

18 Poppy drug (5)

19 Follow, result (5)

4 Instructed (6)

2 Piece; used teeth (3)

Wistfulness for past (9)

11 Large booded snake (4.5)

22 Teaching union (1,1,1); tree

ACROSS

1 Theme: one under ruler (7)

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8 Top-floor room (5)

10 Without hesitation (4.1.4)

13 "Tide-defying" king (6)

17 Part of circle Joan of it (3)

18 Old-fashioned; expired

Grant (7)

20 Feverish (7)

24 Playhouse (7)

12 Piercing tool (3)

14 Armlet, anklet (6)

21 Unexpected extra (5)

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